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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions 1
* 6 Oct *[7 Oct]* 1
* 17 Oct *[18 Oct]* 6
* 19 Oct *[20 Oct]* 10
* 20 Oct *[21 Oct]* 13
* 24 Oct *[25 Oct]* 18
* 26 Oct *[27 Oct]* 20
* 27 Oct *[28 Oct]* 23
* 31 Oct *[1 Nov]* 26

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 6 Oct

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[Text] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held a session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, in which supporting and opposing deputies made speeches concerning the proposed minister of economic affairs and finance. In this session, first the president made a speech explaining the attributes of Mr. Morteza Mohammad-Khan and enumerating his responsibilities since the revolution, the details of which were published in yesterday's issue.**

Following the supporting and opposing statements, his nomination was put to a vote, and out of 223 votes Mr. Mohammad-Khan received 151 supporting votes, 46 opposing votes, and 26 abstaining votes and was chosen as the minister of economic affairs and finance.

Now, we call to the reader's attention the details of the discussions.

Ms. Nowbakht, Opposing

Ms. Nowbakht: Mr. Mohammad-Khan's management of Customs has not been successful.

After the statements by the president, Ms. Nowbakht as the first opponent explained: Speaking in opposition to a minister or a Cabinet does not mean opposition to the president.

She then referred to the reasons for her opposition to Mr. Mohammad-Khan and said: He was in charge of Customs for four years and one month. We can examine his administration of Customs from two dimensions. First, in terms of his management, I must say frankly, unfortunately, Mr. Mohammad-Khan was not successful in this part of his responsibility. We had various reports, and I personally spoke about numerous cases with people who worked in Customs and who are still working there. In summation, a large number of people were dismissed during his administration. According to the statistics, for example, 53 people were at high levels. In the course of four years, we have cases of a director being changed two or three times. There was another discussion in the Majles concerning a series of discussions about the members of the Islamic Society in Customs. After all, there were a number of people in the Islamic Society who either were not in fact competent or could not work with the new administrator. In place of the 53 people who were dismissed, the members of the Islamic Society who were dismissed from the Customs during this period numbered about seven or eight. Hence, it was not only the Islamic Society forces who were dismissed. In any case, we face problems in his management, in particular the lack of stability of the managers under him, the change of directors, and numerous dismissals and appointments.

Ms. Nowbakht also added: We must know, in the course of four years of administration, what the reasons were for these changes being made. I must say that it is possible for a person to be strong and a strong manager but to use incorrect methods. I was present in the meetings that he has had in the past few days. Somewhere, in response to a question that was asked in regards to why so many were transferred, he said: When we entered Customs, Customs had an unfavorable situation in terms of forces, and we had no choice but to change it. I will ask one question, until 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], when he entered the Customs, about 10 years had passed from the reconstruction law in the country, and during this period the forces were reviewed. The forces that could continue their work remained, and others who proved to be incompetent were dismissed. Then we had the instructions of the Imam concerning changing procedures, even in our selections. What is ambiguous to me is, how could it be that in Customs and the totality of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, when he took up this responsibility, all the forces that he dismissed were not competent? In my investigations, I realized that some of them had a history before the revolution, and the reason for the dismissals was not based on evidence. He might say that it is the right of an administrator to choose his own people. I say, in the Islamic regime, to what extent does a manager have the right to change the forces? Can it be accepted that people should be moved at various levels and that this right belongs to the related manager? He must respond to these cases.

Shakhesi, Supporting

Mr. Hasan Shakhesi, as the first supporter, mentioned the biography of the proposed minister of economic affairs and finance and said: As an informed person and a person who has had security responsibilities in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance for several years, I must say that the reconstruction law was not implemented in this ministry as it should have been, and unfortunately a director general who was a planner of the dissolved SAVAK is still active in that system.

The deputy from Astaneh Ashrafiyyeh emphasized Mr. Mohammad-Khan's sufficient education and revolutionary past qualifying him to take over the new responsibility and said: He moved the Customs in such a direction that now the best dear ones of Islam and the Islamic revolution are employed at the level of Customs management, as much as possible. Before the administration of Mr. Mohammad-Khan, could you find a combatant in a management position at the Customs of the Islamic Republic?

Praising his management in previous positions, he pointed out: People today will listen to the Majles discussions and expect those slogans we made in the elections of the Fourth Majles to be achieved. Everyone is waiting for the media to report the news of the Majles today.

He mentioned his primary motivation in supporting the ministry of the above-mentioned to be the support of the grand leader during the service of Mr. Mohammad-Khan and said: Considering the world crisis today, the person chosen by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani must receive a high vote of confidence. Global oppression is waiting, and any supporting vote is a giant step towards ensuring the political and economic power of the government. Today, the people expect a decisive vote from the Majles.

He added: Mr. Mohammad-Khan, with an excellent history and sufficient experience, is obedient to the decrees of the guardian of Muslims. Pride, hypocrisy, being two

faced, and Westernization do not enter his mind. Finally, he was raised in the mosques and religious centers and is a companion of the clerics.

He explained: He considers Islam and the Islamic society the main thing, not the economy, and condemns an economy that destroys values.

Mohsen Kuhkan, Opposing

Mohsen Kuhkan, the deputy from Lenjan, was the second opponent to the proposed minister of economic affairs and finance. He said: The only reason and motivation that places me with those who question and oppose him is that when I saw his proposed program, in regards to some points, which I will tell you about, I either saw nothing or, in my opinion, did not see some of them as in harmony with the economic policies of Mr. Hashemi.

He then added that the most important of the reasons are:

(1) In his proposed programs, the issue of social justice is marginal. We want development and along with it also social justice. We believe that we must choose one of the two, and achieving both is possible. He must discuss what the place of social justice is in his program in the future?

(2) We have taxes in our country that we collect. In terms of the kind of taxes that we collect, they are less than in most countries. In many countries, the amount of taxes collected is much more than in our country. The problem that we have, considering the preface to the Second Plan, is reliance on domestic revenues and in taxes the percentage that was increased. We have this problem, and we expect him to tell us what plans he has to eliminate this problem. We do not collect a great deal of taxes. We also do not collect a variety of taxes. We collect taxes poorly. I am referring to the problem that was determined in the past, and he should be kind enough to tell us whether or not he wants to continue the same path. We determine a share of taxes for a province and say that the taxes that must be collected in the province is a certain amount. The province distributes the ceiling among the cities. Ultimately, the responsibility of the finance official of the city is to collect this amount of taxes. This can be in a sense the per capita taxes in its new modern form. He should explain what ways he has devised to reform the tax mechanism for the people and what he wants to do.

(3) The third issue concerns foreign currency. We are potentially a strong country.

The world trusts us because of our belief. Even the oppressive powers know that we will carry out our obligations to the last amount, because of our belief in what we commit ourselves to. Given the situation at the present time, regarding for these delays, we expect Mr. Mohammad-Khan to kindly pay attention, God willing, as soon as he receives his vote of confidence, to think of emergency solutions to correct this problem that has been created in the past few months and to announce his programs.

(4) The next issue is that of the banks. Regarding the program that he has presented, I saw that he has addressed it briefly in passing. The letter that was signed by a large number of deputies concerns some of the notes of the projected budget law. Six and a half months of the year have passed and not the slightest step has been taken in regards to some of them in the banking system.

How does he intend to respond to these, and how does he want to reform them? If we write the budget law and then, with the approval of the Council of Guardians, it becomes law, naturally, it must be implemented. If we face problems in implementation, or we cannot implement it, at least we must inform the honorable Majles. If the presentation of a bill is necessary, the Majles is quite ready. It should not be left suspended. When the budget was ratified, we offered the specifics of the budget and said, in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], this amount of rials will be set aside for loans for marriage. But six months of the year have passed, and no step has been taken. People are aware of these problems. Tell us what steps you will take to eliminate these problems.

(5) The next issue is the issue of privatization and attracting floating capital. We believe that the institutions and other offices must coordinate their efforts in this area with the economic and finance programs. This was the question that I had during the last days of Dr. Nurbakhsh's administration, which was raised in the committee.

He said that this is true, that the foreign currency that was collected should have been dealt with in this way. But in the Customs, these things were done. We also admit it, but what can be done about the fact that we did not do this? We expect him to solve these problems with the power and decisiveness that the honorable president said he will do as the minister of economic affairs and finance, if he receives the votes. The next issue in my statements is economic security. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has an effective role in this area.

I did not see in your program what plan and initiatives you have for this problem. Naturally, the need is felt to attract floating capital and bring in the private sector in order to create economic security.

Mohsen Kuhkan also added: Mr. Mohammad-Khan in his plan referred to the prevention of price increases by the government at least for the next two years. What is this calculation based on? Why have two years? It seems inharmonious with the policies that were recently ratified by the Economic Council. In Paragraph B of the large economic program, you pointed out the "decrease in the rate of foreign currency." Tell us, considering the situation of our foreign currency revenues, with what mechanism do you hope to reduce the foreign currency rate and be able to answer for it, because the rate should be the floating rate? The decrease in the rate of banking funds needs explanation. In Paragraph 5 of the economic programs you mentioned restricting the transfer of foreign currency to nonproduction sectors. We did not understand this restriction. If there is going to be one rate for foreign currency and then restrictions placed on transferring it to nonproduction sectors, will the result not be to have several rates once again?

He also asked Mr. Mohammad-Khan to respond to the issues raised in connection with the modification of manpower in Customs.

Dari-Najafabadi, Supporting

Dari-Najafabadi: I see in Mr. Mohammad-Khan an active presence in the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi, as the second supporter, enumerated the former responsibilities of Mr. Mohammad-Khar and, referring to his speed in carrying out the duties conferred on him, said: We must not always base our economic issues in theories. Even though economic theories are of major importance, we must have the necessary understanding of the situation of the country and make decisions with consideration for the economic conditions.

Stating that we are at the start of devising the Second Plan, he said: Mr. Mohammad-Khan will have three great responsibilities under the present circumstances. First will be his responsibility for devising the Plan and the role of the above-mentioned ministry in it.

In my opinion, Note 29 of the Plan has not been carefully implemented, which has caused some problems for the country. The deputy from Tehran emphasized the importance of the issue of the banking system and the foreign currency obligations of the country and pointed out: In the program of Mr. Mohammad-Khan, attention has been paid to rial and fund policies and what mechanism is used to inject them.

When his overall approach, which concerns investment and production, is implemented, in my opinion, that social justice, which was the root of Mr. Kuhkan's first question, will be achieved. Under the present conditions of the country, we certainly need investments. In regards to transferring the affairs to the people, our stock market system must become more active than in the past and be able to strengthen the mechanism of internal investment in the country.

He also added: The plan that Mr. Mohammad-Khan presented is to actually be able to collect government taxes from the affluent strata and, if it is necessary, to prepare tax identification cards for the people. It is true that this year we placed the equivalent of 40 billion rials at the disposal of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance for 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] in order to be able to regulate the tax system of the country.

Stating that the tax awareness in the country must be expanded and strengthened, he said: Many people who have windfall money and have not been taxed because they have not been identified must certainly be identified, and the rightful taxes of the government must be collected from them. One of the central points of social justice is for us to be able to collect the government's rightful taxes and spend the money in the proper way, which fortunately has been projected in the policies of the proposed minister.

Dari-Najafabadi mentioned the decrease in expenditures among the items that must be included in the programs of the proposed minister and said: If we increase tax revenues and equally increase expenditures, we will certainly not be able to provide for our investment needs.

The deputy from Tehran then expressed hope that the officials of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Plan and Budget Organization will be able to take effective steps in regulating the budget of the companies and conservation.

Referring to the conflicts that have occurred in the Customs, he said: Mr. Mohammad-Khan will, in any case, preserve his strong relationship with the Majles, the government, and the related committee and will make an effort to employ the sincere forces.

In him I see the power to have an active presence in the ministry and an active presence in the economy and the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget. We hope that a change for the better will occur in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. Hence, I support his appointment as minister.

Khalil Dadvar, Opposing

Mr. Khalil Dadvar, the deputy from Neyriz, made a speech expressing his opposition to the appointment of Mr. Mohammad-Khan and said: What the supporting brothers said in connection with knowing our brother, Mr. Mohammad-Khan, and his biography and his plan all concern the years after the revolution. Nothing was said about prior to the revolution. Also, nothing was stated in this biography. For those of us who want to vote, this is a sensitive issue.

He added: Apparently, he was hired after the victory of the revolution and immediately appointed as the deputy minister and then went through the rest. Only one point [was raised], which was participation in the Islamic Society abroad. Clearly, even if participation in the Islamic Society and membership in the Islamic Society abroad is something to be proud of and a distinction, it is not something at a level worthy of discussion, even if in those days of blood and fire, when the internal organization was destroying the heart of the enemy, he had been more active, but such is not the case.

He explained: I ask the minister to tell us in what areas he worked for the revolution before the revolution and what role he played in support of the people.

In regards to the proposed plan of the candidate for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Dadvar said: Speaking of a plan and putting it into practice requires a great deal of work. Mr. Mohammad-Khan spoke about harnessing inflation and fixing prices, which is the crucial problem of our society, and all the people today are waiting for this problem [to be solved]. Indeed, those high prices, lack of control in the market, and lack of control in trade and transactions in our society are at the root of all the discontent and problems. Can he guarantee that he will control and fix the prices?

In regards to taxes, he said: The pressure of taxes directly and indirectly is on the shoulders of the oppressed and vulnerable classes in the society, and those who must pay taxes today are not in the arena and are not included and will not be included in our tax list.

He added: I will offer you figures about those unidentified individuals. A private teacher has an income of 5,000 tomans an hour. Is this 5,000 tomans an hour being taxed? No. And no one knows him, and he is not on the tax list.

He pointed out: Will Mr. Mohammad-Khan guarantee to collect just taxes and resolve this tax problem? The Customs is different from the Ministry of Economic Affairs; they cannot be compared. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is a sensitive and extensive ministry in our country and cannot be compared to other places.

Mr. Dadvar in conclusion said: In the Ministry of Economic Affairs, based on past experience, we need a competent, capable, and experienced force in the area of the economy.

Zare'i-Qanavati, Supporting

Zare'i-Qanavati: What induces me to support Mr. Mohammad-Khan are the hopeful factors that I saw in his presented programs.

As the last supporter, Zare'i-Qanavati said: What must be considered in endorsing or not endorsing a minister are his policy and programs. Some differences of opinion in implementation or administrative conflicts between him and his other colleagues, even though important, cannot be essential. For a person to have been the director of some organization or to have had problems in implementation with a group of people working for him cannot be, in my opinion, a main criteria for justice.

He added: Certainly, public welfare and social justice are important issues, and many of the positive and negative social actions and reactions are due to attention or lack of attention to this destiny-making principle.

The deputy of Behbahan mentioned the results of the economic pressures on the people and the appearance of many problems for the people and said: Today, our young people suffer from unemployment or low incomes. Today, families are suffering from the imbalance between income and expenditures. Today, discrimination even in collecting taxes causes anxiety and despair for the martyr-nurturing people. Today, the struggle to make a living, the cost of treatment, and the education of children cause discomfort. Hence, anyone who presents a program in which the modification of incomes and just distribution is the objective, if that person intends to change our economy to a dynamic and productive economy that eliminates poverty and deprivation and creates jobs, must be welcomed, and we must vote for him to achieve his goals.

He continued: What induces me to support Mr. Mohammad-Khan are the hopeful factors that I saw in his presented programs, and my vote is conditional on the implementation of these factors.

He emphasized the creation of jobs for the vulnerable strata of the society, which is among the programs of the proposed minister, and explained: This can eliminate the disharmony in society and bring peace of mind to the people. Today, a government employee pays more taxes than a merchant. Today, due to lack of controls, the wealthy do not pay government dues. Hence, considering the program of the proposed minister, even though the mechanism has not been determined, he responds that he promises to collect taxes from the wealthy, which is truly an important reason.

Zare'i-Qanavati emphasized the importance of controlling inflation, preventing uncontrolled imports of foreign goods, and support for domestic products, which are among the proposed programs of Mr. Mohammad-Khan, and said: We all know that the country's capital is limited. Oil, which is one of the main sources of national revenues, will some day finally finish.

This is a warning for us to invest the national revenues for the years when oil is depleted in a way that we can provide for the foreign currency needs of the country from the production of goods through proper investment.

He added: Certainly, if we are able to make changes in the consumer model, which has been created due to the import of fantasy-type goods, we will have taken a great step. This important matter will be achieved if our economy under the present conditions is directed towards the essential needs of the society.

If the proposed minister is able to implement his program to change the consumer model by preventing uncontrolled imports, preventing production of luxury goods, public education through the media, and encouraging the producers to raise the quality of domestically-manufactured products, we shall achieve this important goal.

He emphasized: We should not allow more banking funds to be given to people who are engaged as middlemen and importers of unnecessary goods, causing the domestic industries, due to lack of capital, to confront a recession. The support programs must direct banking facilities toward domestic producers, which is evident in the proposed programs of Mr. Mohammad-Khan.

If in accordance with the proposed program in the course of the First and Second Plan, as he promised, he is able to prevent the disproportionate increase in the rate of government services, we will be making progress toward preventing the uncontrolled increase in prices.

He continued: Another outstanding point in his programs is support for the self-sacrificers, innovators, researchers, and those who have positive social advantages, on whose self-sacrifice the growth and blossoming of our Islamic nation depends. It is our duty to pay attention to their employment situation and condition, welfare, and education in all economic, social, and cultural movements.

He then pointed out: His membership in the Islamic Society abroad prior to the revolution was not made to look very important, whereas membership in the Islamic societies abroad, and for that matter before the revolution, can be a great source of pride for anyone.

Statements of Mr. Mohammad-Khan

In the continuation of the open session of the Majles yesterday, Mr. Morteza Mohammad-Khan, the proposed minister of economic affairs and finance, described his programs for taking charge of this ministry and, in response to the statements of the opposing deputy, Ms. Nowbakht, said: I thank Ms. Nowbakht for discussing my weak points, but I think that, considering the endorsement of the honorable president for my work, evaluation of management in a society is a relative matter, and whether I have worked absolutely well or absolutely poorly depends on the evaluation indices.

He added: The Customs organization is a very old organization, about 97 years old. During this period, from about

1313 [21 March 1934-20 March 1935], it was removed from the control of foreigners and placed under Iranian management. In the period prior to the revolution, 31 directors changed hands in it, and on the average every 14 to 15 months management of Customs changed. After the victory of the revolution until 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 11 directors were changed with an average period of service of 13 months. I myself thought that as long as Mr. Hashemi is president, I will serve as the director of Customs and devised an eight-year plan.

Mohammad-Khan pointed out: When I was to take charge of the directorship of Customs, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: You will go there to reform the affairs, not to manage them, and this is a religious duty. In all that I did, I tried to take the contentment of God into consideration and work in accordance with the goals of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said: Unfortunately, in the period after the revolution, some people from outside the Customs system began working in the Customs. Their number did not exceed the fingers of one's hand. When I entered Customs, I tried to make the best use of the honorable colleagues who were in Customs, but later realized that some suspicious movements were trying to weaken the administration. It was decided that those gentlemen would be transferred to other ministries, and from that moment on no steps would be taken to weaken these brothers, and the accusations against me are merely from the same brothers, to which I have not responded to this moment, because I believe that a manager must have forbearance.

Mr. Mohammad-Khan pointed out: During my administration in Customs, efforts were made in accordance with the goals of the regime to have the Hezbollah forces present on the scene and give the key positions to the combatants, the freed prisoners of war, and the grand families of the martyrs. By the grace of God, under the present conditions, the operation of Customs is in the hands of the Hezbollah, and the Hezbollah has total control of Customs and acts successfully in the direction of the economic policies. He then examined the operation of the various sectors of the economy in the First Five-Year Plan and said: The operation of the added value of the agricultural sector shows that this sector in the past four years has had a relatively high growth of 5.8 percent, whereas the projected figure was 5.5 percent.

He added: This growth is mainly due to eliminating fixed prices and offering guaranteed prices for many essential and strategic goods and making it necessary to continue the policies in the future years. In fact, one of our major policies in the future years is the continuation of the guaranteed prices for a larger number of agricultural and animal husbandry products in a way that logical support for farmers, especially for some items that are relatively more advantageous, is provided.

In continuation, Mr. Mohammad-Khan said: Our policy is to reduce the role of the government in the monopoly on distribution and import of agricultural products in a way that government involvement in these affairs reaches a minimum.

Also, referring to the operation of the industries and mines sector, in regard to his programs as the minister of economic affairs and finance for this sector, he said: The created growth in the industries sector during the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] years was close to the projected figure. The 12.7 percent compared to the projected 14.3 percent in the Plan is necessary so that in the future programs, with the efforts to continue the growth, the created growth is achieved [sentence as published].

Mr. Mohammad-Khan pointed out: Determining an appropriate level for Customs tariffs [is necessary] for the logical support of domestic products and keeping the tariff rates low under the circumstances when there are no similar domestic goods or, due to the lack of necessary resources and specialty, they cannot be produced domestically.

He mentioned the transfer of some of the government units to the private sector as another policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in the industries sector and said: Some production units under government management, which are not strategic and essential will be transferred to the private sector to create healthy competition in production. In another part of his speech, Mr. Mohammad-Khan mentioned planning to enter the export and open international markets in order to create variety in the foreign currency resources of the country, make better use of the oil and natural gas resources of the country, improve the situation of refineries, and establish energy-generating industries to produce and export oil products as among the other policies of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. In regards to the housing sector, he said: Foreign currency increases for housing through the present support [system] and mass produced housing will benefit the low-income groups through the extending of banking funds.

In this connection, he pointed out: In fact, in order to increase housing production, our normal policy must be to support mass producers of housing.

Regarding taxes and revenues, Mr. Mohammad-Khan said: In connection with revenues, one of the economic goals of the government is to reduce its reliance on oil revenues and increase the share of tax revenues.

He added: The share of taxes from 24.4 percent of the total revenues in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1984] has increased to 38.1 percent in 1371 [21 march 1992-20 March 1993], which is a significant figure, and it must be said that in this comparison, percentages have been calculated at the official foreign currency rate. Nevertheless, in order to continue the above-mentioned policies, among our economic policies in the tax section are eliminating tax exemption discrimination, expanding the tax base, revising the tax system, clarifying and completing the tax laws for tax rates in a desirable form, carrying out studies to devise new methods to reduce delays in the collection of taxes and the phenomenon of tax evasion, revising the organization and methods of foreign currency with the goal of increasing the efficiency of the tax system, completing the information system and economic code for all economic individuals, and increasing the resources of the revenue level by all provincial organizations.

He added: To change the composition of government expenditures, it is necessary for the share of current expenditures instead of developmental expenditures to be reduced, and we must offer more precise and clear definition for developmental and current expenditures.

He explained: In this connection, attention will be paid to polices such as reducing the current budget of the sectors through decreasing government controls, transferring some of the government activities to the private sector, and making government companies viable through revising the management system of these companies.

In connection with the monetary and banking system discussion, Mr. Mohammad-Khan pointed out: In recent years, the rate of the increase in cash flow compared to the goals of the First Plan has been very high. In other words, the rate of the increase in cash flow according to the economic operation of 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] was on the average 2.2 percent, whereas this rate in the First Plan was projected at 9.4 percent.

He added: The increase in cash flow along with the problems concerning the system, technical and financial economic evaluation of the projects, and the system of supervision over the allocation of funds have resulted in further increase in prices and increasing inflation.

In conclusion, Mohammad-Khan said: In fact, the cash flow has always been accepted as the factor in establishing trade, encouraging production, and creating growth so that if the needs of the production sector and cash flow are not met, it will cause an economic recession. But the main issue is that with the cash flow, production is also achieved.

Statements of the Supporters and Opponents of the Vote of Confidence for the Minister of Finance

Supporters

In his program, attention is paid to the rials and funds policies.

In his policies, the collection of rightful taxes for the government has been anticipated.

In him, an active presence in the economy and 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget can be seen.

His management in Customs was good.

In his program, there are positive and hopeful factors.

Opponents

There are no initiatives for economic security in his program.

There is no reliable basis for the announcement of the policy of no price increases form the next two years.

Limiting the transfer of foreign currency to nonproduction sectors is ambiguous.

The issue of banks has been referred to in passing in his program.

His management at Customs was weak.

On the Margins of the Majles

One of the speakers who yesterday made a speech in support of him during the examination of the vote of confidence for the minister of economic affairs and finance was Hoseyn Shakhesi, the deputy from Astaneh Ashrafiyyeh.

He was supposed to speak in support of the minister. In the beginning, he intended to refer to the events in Russia and the Muslim countries of Central Asia, when the speaker of the Majles said: These do not concern our time here. This is not a pre-agenda speech for you to start a discussion.

Then Mr. Shakhesi said in agreement: "One of the reasons for my support for Engineer Mohammad-Khan is the support of the grand leader and the attention of his honor to him during the period of service of Engineer Mohammad-Khan." Mr. Nateq-Nuri explained: "I request of the honorable deputies that the name of the grand leader and the guardian of Muslims not be used.

"The fact that someone is approved by the leader makes it appear as if we have now received his approval and we are just having a discussion about nothing."

"His honor has no particular views on such issues and leaves the decisionmaking to the Majles."

*** 17 Oct**

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from Qa'emshahr, Sardasht and Piranshahr, Tehran, and Langrud gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda.

In this session Dari-Najafabadi was elected a member of the Majles Speaker's Council to replace the former deputy from Sanandaj. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Mohammad Kazem-Seyfian, Deputy From Tehran

There will never be another era of Taqizadehs who have returned from Europe.

One of the speakers was Mohammad Kazem-Seyfian, deputy from Tehran. In his speech he said: Today at this sensitive point in history, the most important thing for our nation and government, in view of the commands of the late Imam and also the commands of the exalted leader, is to preserve the government and the exalted values of the Islamic revolution. Even efforts to improve the economic situation and the public welfare must be made for the purpose of preserving the divine government, otherwise, even economic improvement and coping with an animal existence can never be a goal for the Islamic nation.

He added: On the other hand, if as the result of poor policies and excessive pressure by officials the people become so fed up that they turn their backs on Islam and the government, all the insiders in the government will be to blame. This is one of the most basic issues with regard to preserving the government and the Islamic revolution that must be given attention by all officials, whether legislative, executive, or judicial. He then explained: The nation's high-level economic officials and planners who believe in this government must be careful that their

positions on the the Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan be in the interest of the real owners of the revolution, meaning the oppressed and suffering people. It is clear that in such circumstances planning will be aimed at pleasing God as well as preserving the government and the gains of the revolution.

Elsewhere in his talk he emphasized: Today there is more talk than ever about confronting the cultural invasion, and this must be taken even more seriously, because the invasion is not just coming from outside this government. Both foreign and domestic agents are taking part in this invasion.

Of course, if we are alert we can defend against this danger, especially the domestic danger, which is more damaging than the foreign danger.

Among the items, which must be given attention in the confrontation with the cultural invasion, he mentioned the study of the nation's planning figures, the study of existing laws and regulations, the behavior and dealings of government workers with the people, preventing and properly approaching bribery and financial abuses, publishing lies and assassinating the character of respected public figures.

He said: Those who misuse their pens in the interest of imperialism and who cause trouble for us must be dealt with severely. Unfortunately, this last group works very secretly, in such a way that shallow thinkers think it is no longer necessary during the era of economic and social development to talk about Islamic and revolutionary values.

If we assume that these writers are not self-interested and counterrevolutionary, which is unlikely, then they must be very warped and stupid. The Imam's companions are still alive. How can you brazenly speak of an era of enlightenment, believing that during this process of intellectual invasion it is no sin to be without religion, putting religion and spirituality aside in your mind?

I am telling you that you have misread the situation. There will never be another era of Taqizadehs who have returned from Europe. These basijis and children of the revolution will never permit the realization of the goals of these people who have returned from Europe, who consider it a bad thing to hold a grudge against the West. To make use of the new technology, why is it necessary to accept the vulgar culture of the West? What is the problem with the rich thought of Islam that you are recommending that students go abroad and then definitely come back to the country with Western ideas? Why? So that they can comfortably sell out their country, the way you do?

Today Muslim women go through all the phases of university with the veil and full Islamic dress both inside and outside this country, without backing off an inch from the ideas of their Islamic culture. Islamic culture is a complete culture, not a closed culture. A complete culture has no need to accept another culture. They have not considered that our war with Saddam was not a national and patriotic war, but was instead a battle against world infidelity. If the goal in life were development, children in high school would not go to the fronts with the consent of their mothers and fathers to accept martyrdom. You must realize that whether you like it or not, despite the plots, Islam is moving ahead with more power than ever.

He likewise noted: If, God forbid, officials are weak in preserving the gains of the revolution, then these basijis, people who have given martyrs and the oppressed people of the revolution will protect the revolution. Haven't you ever talked with the basijis and the families of martyrs to see the expectations of these dear ones after 15 years of revolution? Their primary demand is that preserving the government and Islamic values should come before welfare and economic issues. Today, despite all the efforts to stir up public opinion, Islamic Iran is the center of Islam in the world.

If Iran still collaborated with Israel and one of the agents of imperialism as much as it did before the revolution, its political and economic life would definitely be in conflict with Islamic values. Did you think that the great leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran was a man of national political affairs who came to his job the way others do, by leaning on the Islamic nation and then going his own way? No, it was never like this. He was a divine man who was on the path of obedience to God. The nation also knew its Imam well and he sincerely obeyed God from 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963] until the day he died.

The result of the efforts of that Imam and this nation is this sacred Islamic government, which you dastardly people and your ilk have set out to destroy. How ungrateful it truly is for us to make use of the gifts and blessings of this divine Islamic government and then, instead of protecting the values and gains of the revolution, to speak of open-mindedness and intellectualism.

Mohammad Karimian, Deputy From Sardasht and Piranshahr

Another pre-agenda speaker was Karimian, deputy from Sardasht. During his speech he thanked the people for their comprehensive presence in the elections. He said: One of the nation's current problems is the existing crisis and inflation and the economic disruption. The new government must actively and seriously take the necessary path to solve this, because the failure to give rapid and serious attention to the matter, indifference to the demands and pains of the people, and ignoring existing problems or protesting and demonstrating against people who are working sincerely and with concern to solve society's various problems and who are seeking solutions not only will not solve any problems, it also will increase problems and threaten the future of the revolution.

He added: The government undoubtedly has the duty of seeing and recognizing the problems. The government itself must take the initiative in alleviating deficiencies, malfunctions, and shortages. Then it must also ask the people to get involved and help the government at the right time. Otherwise, the problem will get more complicated day by day and public dissatisfaction will increase.

He added: Inequality, injustice, extortion, discrimination, bribery, insufficient work and the weakness of some management are evident at various levels and are causing oppression. For example, instead of identifying and appointing worthy managers who understand the public

needs in the region, its people and its politics, and ultimately the government's general goals, it is sometimes seen that inexperienced and immature people are appointed and sent to the region based on factionalism, policies, and other relationships, who are not only unfamiliar with the customs and mores of the region, but who also do not even consider the minimum expectations of the God-seeking people of this very sensitive part of the Islamic homeland, which is a worthy, humble, and kindly approach to them by the officials.

He added: I don't know what sin the educated people of this area have been convicted of, or why and until when we cannot make use, in various official positions and at least in their own municipality, of competent local people who are committed and loyal to the government and who are experienced and specialized, for this would reduce unfavorable public opinion at this special time and in the political conditions prevailing in the region.

How long must the pure and trustworthy Muslim youth of this area in these two contented deprived border municipalities who have proven their loyalty to the government be treated unkindly and be the victims of self-interested and vengeful remarks by local people whose points of view are obvious? Many of these deprived youth even lost their age qualifications for employment and were deprived of education and employment on empty and baseless pretexts. Many of them with various credentials have been forced to engage in legitimate and illegitimate border trade.

Truly, what are people like this supposed to do? What should they do?

Continuing, Karimian discussed the public problems and needs in his electoral district, and he asked the officials in charge to look into these needs. Among the needs he mentioned were: the construction of a dam on the Zab River; the completion and start-up of Piranshahr Hospital; the construction of a minimum of 100 10-classroom and 5-classroom schools and ... [ellipsis as published in Persian text]; the construction of various factories appropriate for the situation in the region to achieve economic prosperity and to employ the unemployed; determining the final status of the war refugees along the border; the construction of a concrete bridge in Sardasht; the allocation of an asphalt factory; moving the Sardasht garrison outside the city; completion and start-up of Sardasht's 64-bed hospital, completion and start-up of the Tavanir electrical power station, creation of sports centers in the region, and creation of border markets.

Parviz Siqali, Deputy From Langrud

The latest flood in Gilan completely destroyed 200 hectares of agricultural land and 34 villages.

Another pre-agenda speaker was Siqali, deputy from Langrud. He discussed the latest flood in the north part of the country. He said: In recent weeks more than six days of torrential rains have caused numerous losses to the cities and villages in Gilan, especially Langrud. More than 300 homes, 200 hectares [ha] of agricultural land and 34 villages have been completely destroyed. This bitter tragedy has also transported land.

He also asked the Ministry of the Interior for help in procuring housing, reconstructing, and placing development installations in the destroyed villages.

The deputy from Langrud described the situation in the province of Gilan as unfavorable in various economic, development, and social sectors. As the reasons for his claims he cited the unemployment rate in the province, which is above 17 percent; the villages without fresh water; the problem of urban refuse disposal; the problem of sewage in the cities; and the region's unsuitable roads.

Among the important problems in the province of Gilan, Siqali mentioned the failure to complete the only airport in Gilan and the failure to make the best use of the Caspian Sea in the shipping sector.

'Askari Faqih 'Aliabadi, Deputy From Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh

Another speaker was 'Askari Faqih 'Aliabadi, deputy from Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh. During his talk he thanked the people from his electoral district for electing him to the Fourth Majles. He said: Respected speaker of the Majles and his esteemed colleagues, I am very proud to have the honor to serve in the Majles in the midst of those of you who have been chosen by the nation. I am proud to serve the people, who signed the seal of their loyalty in their own pure blood, from the heights of the Alborz range and Shurab to the beautiful and forgotten shores of the Caspian and in all the cities and villages where the names and memories of martyrs are to be found on alley walls and in homes. These people are also determined to preserve Islam and the sacred Islamic revolution. Under the leadership of their dear leader, they are prepared to sacrifice and serve in any capacity. As for the several problems in my electoral district:

The municipalities of Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh, with populations of more than 323,590 and 73,959, are located between Firuzkuh and Sari and Babol.

The people of that area have long earned their livelihood through animal husbandry, agriculture, and work in the mines and factories. In the conditions before the revolution, the people were drawn to work in industrial centers because of problems in animal husbandry and agriculture. Many of them, despite their abundant love for these things, gave up their land, farming and livestock and in addition to that sought the welfare of city life. The difficulties of rural life sent the people little by little into the cities, and unfortunately this is continuing. This change brought changes in their way of earning a livelihood and it undermined cultural, social and economic conditions among the people, especially in agriculture and animal husbandry.

He added: Savadkuh and Qa'emshahr have a significant effect on the nation's economic prosperity because of its vast forests, and rich mines of rock coal, silica, metals, and other sensitive reserves.

The God-given favorable geographic position in Savadkuh and Qa'emshahr has given them favorable conditions for animal husbandry, agriculture, and related industries, and it may be said that Mazandaran is considered one of the largest agricultural and animal husbandry regions.

The presences of industrial factors before the revolution in the area caused the cultivation of skilled and experienced manpower, many of whom are not being used and are receiving little attention for various reasons.

Continuing, the deputy from Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh discussed the artistic and athletic values in these two cities and their esteemed martyrs. Continuing, he asked the respected president of the republic to honor the people with a visit to the province of Mazandaran, especially his electoral district.

In conclusion, he issued memos to the minister of energy about delivering electrical power to the 1,000 villages in the Savadkuh area, to the minister of roads and transportation about widening the Tehran-Savadkuh road and building a beltway in Qa'emshahr, to the minister of housing concerning the expansion of the Zirab hospital and the construction of the Sihirgah hospital, to the minister of health care concerning the completion of the Juybar hospital, to the minister of petroleum about expediting natural gas delivery in Juybar and meeting the necessary expectations in winter fuel procurement and to the minister of the interior about making Kiakolah into a district. He called upon officials to look into the situation with the rural areas and cities in the province of Mazandaran, and to be serious about meeting their needs.

Legislation

Election of Mr. Dari-Najafabadi as a Member of the Speaker's Council

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the election of a member of the speaker's council, and among the candidates, Messrs. Dari-Najafabadi, Mirvalad, Qashqavi, Danesh-Monfard, Sa'idi and Ahmad Mutavi, Mr. Dari-Najafabadi was elected with 99 votes and immediately took the oath.

It is worth mentioning that Mohammad Reza Rahimi, a member of the Speaker's Council and a Majles deputy, had resigned and is now governor-general of Kordestan.

Details of the Very Urgent Motion on the Sale of Purchased Automobiles

The second item on the agenda was the details on the very urgent Bill Authorizing the Sale of Automobiles Purchased With Credits from Note 2, Paragraph 8 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] National Budget Law, of which Article 1 and its note were approved by the Majles.

Article 1: Based on the guidelines to be prepared within a maximum of two months after this bill's enactment and approved by the Ministry of Health Education and Training and the Plan and Budget Organization, the Ministry of Education and Training may sell its minibuses and buses to real and legal persons as lease-purchase transfers.

Note 1: The buyers of the above vehicles must work under contract for the Ministry of Education and Training for a minimum of five years and the final transfer of the document of ownership to the buyer is prohibited until the end of the contract waiting period.

Note 2: Personnel working in service and support for the Ministry of Education and Training wishing to serve in a buy-back capacity and those who have sacrificed for the Islamic revolution will have respective priority with regard to the above vehicles.

Note 3: Upon notification in writing from the Ministry of Education and Training, the police are required to assign nongovernment license numbers to the above vehicles.

Majles Financial System Proposal

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Accounting Court Commission on the proposed Majles Financial System (returned from the Guardian Council), whose amendment was approved by the deputies.

Article 2 was amended as follows:

Article 2: The Majles budget will be prepared by the Islamic Consultative Majles in observance of the laws and will be inserted in the National Budget Law.

The previous version of Article 2 said: The Majles budget will be prepared by the Islamic Consultative Majles in observance of the laws and will be inserted in the National Budget Law.

Law Authorizing Determination of the Amounts of Customs Rates and Commercial Profits

The final item on the agenda was the Bill Authorizing Determination of the Amounts of Customs Rates and Commercial Profits by the Government for Imported Goods, continued consideration of which was deferred to the next session.

Article 1 of this bill says:

Article 1: The government is authorized to set customs rates for imported goods with the exception of various kinds of imported road construction vehicles and machinery, their domestic manufacture and imported parts, which are covered by the pertinent law. This will be done while observing the following principles and regulations:

1. Reasonable support for domestic products.

2. No increases in tariffs for foodstuffs that are heavily consumed and and needed by the public.

3. Relative restraint on the inflation rate and restraint on the growth of the price index, especially with regard to basic and needed goods.

Note 1: Within no more than two months of this bill's enactment, the government is required to prepare a bill pertaining to the setting of customs rates on all imported goods, observing the goals and policies given above, and to present it to the Majles for approval.

Note 2: The customs rates on imported goods that are set by the government in implementation of this law must be applied by 1/15/1373 [4 April 1994].

Measures Enacted by Majles Commissions

The most important measures enacted by the Majles commissions this week are the following:

Proposed Inquiry Concerning Article 982 of the Civil Law

This proposal was studied in the judicial affairs commission. Article 982 of the Civil Law, which was also approved recently, states: Those who have acquired Iranian citizenship may not be employed as judges. The question arose whether the law applies to those who were previously hired as judges and who are drawing wages. The commission's view: "This restriction does not apply to those who obtained citizenship before the law was passed who are now employed as judges."

Bill on Dealing With Administrative Violations

This bill was approved with amendments by the main Administrative Affairs Commission at its 7/6/1372 [28 September 1993] session. The bill has 72 articles. According to Article 1, its purpose is to deal with administrative violations in each of the organizations covered by the Law on the Councils Formed To Deal With Administrative Violations of Employees. These councils include the primary and supervised councils. Under Article 8 administrative violations include: Violations of the Law, behavior in violation of employment or administrative standards, embezzlement, extortion, disclosing administrative secrets and working too little.

Weekly Agenda for Majles Commissions

The weekly agendas for the Majles commissions for the current week are presented as follows for our esteemed readers:

Education and Training Commission

Study of the Bill Authorizing Iran To Join the Children's Rights Commission

Guidance and Art Commission

Report from the deputy minister of intelligence

Continued investigation of the Haj and Pilgrimage Organization

Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission

Continued discussion of the removal the Grain Organization from the Ministry of Commerce

Speaker's Council selection of the Joint Commission for Administrative, Employment, and Oil Affairs

Economic and Financial Affairs Commission

Hearing of the report from the minister of post concerning the ministry's performance

Study of the Proposed Law on Procedures for Procuring the Expenses of Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines

Plan and Budget Commission

Study of the government companies budget

Study of the Bill To Amend the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] National Budget Law With Respect to the Government Companies Budget, the Banks and Profit-Making Institutions Affiliated With the Government.

Petroleum Affairs Commission

Invitation to minister of petroleum to present a report on the situation with the oil industry

Visit to oil and petrochemical installations in Shiraz

Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission

Consideration of the Proposed Law on the Issuance of Checks (returned from the Guardian Council)

Study of the Procedures for Punishing Those Who Engage in Unauthorized Activities in Audio-Visual Affairs

Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission

Continued Consideration of the Bill on the Formation, Responsibilities, and Selection of the Nation's Islamic Councils and the Election of Mayors

Post, Telegraph and Power Affairs Commission

Continued consideration of the burning of the communications warehouses in Shiraz

Visit to the Latian Dam

Investigation of the officials representing Astara, in the presence of the minister of energy

Commercial Affairs Commission

Study of the Consumer Support Bill

Agricultural Affairs Commission

Study of the request for investigation of a number of deputies concerning the procedure for transferring lands with national and government resources to individuals

Majles Internal Guidelines Commission

Study of the procedure for studying the annual National Budget Bill

* 19 Oct

94LA0063A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Oct 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from Babolsar, Varamin, Tehran, Chenaran, and Torqeyh gave speeches. Then the Majles speaker gave a speech in which he condemned America's crimes in Somalia and Haiti, and the destruction of His Holiness Bal's shrine in Kashmir by the Indian Government. Then the Majles took up its agenda and the report from the investigation and study of the performance of the governors, district governors, mayors, and officials on the Kermanshah Province Reconstruction Staff was read. Printed below for our esteemed readers are the detailed proceedings of the open Majles session.

Mohammad Majdara, Deputy From Babolsar

In the Second Five-Year Plan, social justice must be observed in all affairs.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Majdara, deputy from Babolsar. During his speech he discussed the preparation and compilation of the Second Five-Year Plan in the 11 planning commissions, which is almost completed. He said: Social justice must be observed in all the affairs and policies of the Second Five-Year Plan. Credits must be

justly allocated and distributed everywhere in the country in the monetary, credit, investment, energy, transportation, communications, industry and mines, water, agriculture, and especially in the employment and manpower sectors. These credits must be provided in all social, geographic, and political situations for dealing with regional problems in such a way that if this is done based on regional standards and independence it will attract the confidence of the Majles and the people and will increase per capita national production.

Continuing, he said: By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, annual debt payments need to decrease to 15 percent of what they are now so that the nation's economic wheels will turn faster and also that the nation's debt burden will be reduced. The management of debt repayment in the Central Bank must change in such a way that it restores the government's financial credibility and confidence in the government. It is true that the manipulation of public opinion and negative propaganda by our enemies is making a mountain out of a molehill, but the proper management of the repayment of credit debts can easily thwart their economic plots.

Continuing, the deputy from Babolsar explained: In addition to keeping the borrowing at zero, increasing the share of tax revenues, and mechanizing tax collections, in the Second Five-Year Plan the Supreme Banking Council must act in such a way that the rate of the growth of the money supply is under control and that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the nation's inflation will be down to 10 to 12 percent per year.

In view of the need to continue the process of economic adjustment over the next five years, it is especially important for the private sectors to make more use of banking system credits, rather than the government sectors and companies allocating credits for themselves, undermining the public's right to make use of these means. This in itself will bring on stagnation, higher unemployment, and reduced production. Majdara emphasized: Come what may, the nation's administrative structure must be changed, and violators must be dealt with using every legal mechanism. Simple mechanisms must be used to conduct affairs, choose worthy management and to create high order and organization, so that the dear public will be happier than before with service organizations.

He congratulated the new minister of economic and financial affairs, and he recommended that he appoint an experienced and aware group of budget, financial, and monetary experts to make separate careful studies of the costs and revenues of each of the nation's provinces and to make a list of independent and dependent managers so that on that basis a system of province self-management can be planned. In this regard the difference in the amount collected as taxes may be deposited in the treasury annually by the management of the province, and on the other hand the government can also give financial aid to the deprived provinces.

The deputy from Babolsar mentioned the problem of the failure to obtain bank means by the producers participating in this year's exposition and he called for the alleviation of this problem by the officials in charge. Continuing, Majdara addressed the minister of the interior and recommended that in view of the importance of the selection of the governors-general, these individuals, like ambassadors, should be appointed to terms of three to four years and sent to the place of their service, thereby insuring the stability of executive management and perpetuating and strengthening project planning.

He called on the president of the republic to pay more attention to the province of Mazandaran, and he offered condolences to the public on the death of Rahbari, representative from the Assembly of Experts to this province.

Mohammad Qomi, Deputy From Varamin

Islamic government is required to create justice and to achieve the rights of the people.

The second pre-agenda speaker at today's Majles session was Mohammad Qomi, deputy from Varamin. In his speech he discussed part of the message on the revolution from the exalted leader His Holiness the Imam, who said: "there is no doubt that the world devourers fear our nation's seeking of martyrdom and values of sacrifice just as much as they fear the spirit of the economy of Islam aimed at supporting the indigent." He said: To achieve this, if we really want the religion of God to remain alive in society, we must keep justice alive.

He added: If justice is implemented in society and among the people, everyone will be without need and there will be true alleviation of deprivation.

He also discussed the fact that the Islamic government is required to implement justice, to manifest truth, and to alleviate oppression among the people. He said: The implementation of justice in society is not something with regard to whose existence or nonexistence the government's officials, representatives, and managers are indifferent.

He continued: The respected deputies know that excess and poverty are approached in two ways in the Constitution. The introduction discusses the elimination of human need, the elimination of the concentration of wealth and profiteering, and of just relationships and associations. Mr. Qomi discussed Article 3, Paragraph 9. He said: The elimination of discrimination and the creation of just resources for everyone is assumed in all material and spiritual affairs.

In this regard he continued: Paragraph 12 mentions social justice in the planning of a proper and just economy based on Islamic rules to create welfare, alleviate poverty and eliminate every kind of deprivation in the areas of food, housing, employment, health care, procuring insurance and also in Article 29.

In Article 43, attention has been given to uprooting poverty and deprivation and meeting human needs, and in Article 49 the Islamic government's responsibility towards illicit wealth and hoarders is clarified. There are also important topics in other progressive articles in the Constitution, which unfortunately have not been treated as seriously as they should be and ought to be.

He explained: To alleviate deprivation, advance spirituality in society and implement justice, the Constitution must be put into practice, and if this task remains at the level of slogans and politesse, and if we compliment one

another while ignoring the basic problems of the deprived, this will be regrettable. What benefit will be left to the oppressed from this solidarity and oneness of heart?

He added: Did Islam state and emphasize that there should be a group in Islamic society living in palaces and decorated villas with welfare resources, while some people are living in shacks and hovels without even a bower over their heads? Some people are awash in various kinds of material blessings, spending much money on toys for their children, while there are others living alongside them who cannot buy low-cost drugs for a sick person on the threshold of death. A small number of people can obtain all the resources of education and training through investment and academic and specialist schools for their children, while many other children do not have the most primitive resources and implements.

Elsewhere in his talk, the deputy from Varamin discussed achieving justice, fighting Western imperialism and also paying attention to guidance from the late Imam (peace be upon him) and the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution. He said: Today world imperialism led by America is terrified of the implementation of justice, while since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution a number of people have sought, in some way and on the pretext of solving the government's political and economic problems, to establish relations with America at any price, sometimes claiming a correct and proper understanding of the essence of the Islamic revolution and sometimes out of naivete and fear.

He also discussed the fact that a number of people today support relations with America, and consider that to be the way of joy and salvation. He said: Those who subscribe to this thinking must be asked, what country has solved its problems merely through relations with America?

In conclusion, he said that the struggles of the people of Lebanon and the Muslims of Egypt and Algeria arise from the esteemed Islamic revolution of Iran.

Mohsen Yahyavi, Deputy From Tehran

The executive director of the Voice and Vision organization must not allow a few irresponsible decisions to cause required policies to disappear from this organization.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Yahyavi, deputy from Tehran. During his speech he condemned the disgraceful agreement between the PLO and Israel, and he glorified proper management in the Majles. He said: I thank all the experts, who out of a sense of responsibility, have unofficially given valuable information from inside the executive organizations to their representatives in the Majles, and who have thus helped their deputies in carrying out this important responsibility. It is expected that the ministers will refrain from taking any kind of position against these elements, and, in keeping with the advice from the president of the republic, that they will make use of the constructive criticism from the deputies to reform internal affairs in their ministries and newspapers.

He added: It is clear that the representatives of the people, including those who have spoken in opposition to the Cabinet or a specific minister, will not hesitate to support the proper performance of the ministers. They will make every effort to create the legal means to advance them and to exercise supervision and guidance if a deficiency is observed. In this cooperation they predictably distributed a statement in the name of the National Petrochemical Company in which I was blamed, out of ignorance or perhaps out of self-interest, for the violation of the Hydro Treaty, which was called the equivalent of the Treaty of Turkomanchai by one respected commission member. This treaty was achieved after a careful study and hours of talks with oil specialists, including the minister of petroleum, the executive director, and the managers of the petrochemical company. This treaty was actually one of the Petroleum Commission's proudest achievements in the fourth term, and it was an effective step in carrying out the task of supervision.

He also continued: A number of experts and zealous managers in the petrochemical industry characterized certain elements as unaware and self-interested. These experts and managers are too dignified to allow a few foreigners with huge amounts of money under such circumstances to do work that they are supposed to have done, and felt that that they had to provide the necessary information to the commission.

Continuing, Yahyavi said: I do not intend to answer questions, because existing documents and evidence show the truth of the Petroleum Commission's position, and the falsity of this information. What must be studied is the motivation for distributing this statement by the Voice of the Islamic Republic during the Majles recess, over the frequency the Voice of the Majles uses, using eloquent language and with special reliance on certain expressions, which took the form of an assault along with an attempt to set the stage, beginning at 0800 the same day.

Although this statement in answer to my remarks was made during the time allotted for a vote of confidence in the government, there was a lot of time for that in those days. In addition, the time allotted for the supporters and the government to speak totalled twice as much as the time for the opponents, and in the last five hours the president of the republic and the ministers spoke and answered questions. They also gave most of the time to the minister of petroleum. If they had an answer, they definitely gave it.

The deputy from Tehran added: Moreover, with subsequent information it became clear that after the program was announced at 0800 the deputy minister of petroleum for Majles affairs contacted the minister, who was in Vienna at that time for an OPEC meeting, and vigorously opposed it. He asked that its broadcast be stopped in any way possible. The deputy minister of petroleum for petrochemical affairs also declared his opposition to broadcasting the statement.

The Ministry of Petroleum made high-level contacts with the Voice and Vision organization and asked that the statement not be broadcast, but they stubbornly refused to agree. Are there people in the Voice and Vision organization who think that by creating this kind of atmosphere they will be able to keep the representatives of the people from telling the truth and silencing them? Perhaps there are people in the Voice and Vision organization who think that by creating this kind of public atmosphere they will suppress the results of the investigation and research done

concerning this organization. This research and investigation takes up hundreds of pages, and its disclosure will be bitter for many people.

It is better that these people realize that the nation's representatives are committed before their God, the revolution and the people, and they will not choose silence instead of telling the truth unless silence is in the interest of the revolution and the people.

He then reminded the executive director of the Voice and Vision organization about this institution's impartiality. He said: The aforementioned organization is answerable to the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and the person in charge of it must not allow a few irresponsible decisions to cause the policies ordered by His Holiness to disappear from this organization, causing public lack of confidence in this most important media to become universal.

Ahmad Moradi, Deputy From Taraqiyeh and Chenaran

The people of Chenaran showed their unshakable bond with the revolution with their splendid welcome for the president of the republic.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Ahmad Moradi, deputy from Taraqiyeh and Chenaran. In his speech he said: The vast province of Khorasan, full of yearning, joy and hope, honored the wonderful trip by His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani, president of the republic, and with their unprecedented welcome they displayed another golden page in the pride of sacred Khorasan.

Moradi criticized the Voice and Vision organization and the mass media for not reflecting the true grandeur of this trip. He said: This is the first time in the entire life of the deprived municipality of Chenaran that it has had the honor of playing host to such a high-ranking person, and it gave its friends the opportunity to speak in person with the president of the republic about their problems and difficulties. With their turnout and their active involvement in the remote and nearby villages and regions, the public showed its unshakable bond with the revolution and the values of the new government, and they benefited from the spiritual and material blessings of this trip.

He thanked the people of Khorasan for their extensive turnout in the welcoming ceremonies for the president of the republic. He said: The year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] can be called a year of goodness and unity for the municipality of Chenaran and Taraqiyeh. He praised Mr. Basharati, chief of the Deprived Areas Office; Dr. Ghafurifard, the minister of the interior; the minister of labor, the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, and the minister of roads and transportation for their aid and assistance to the trip to the region.

In conclusion he asked the people of his electoral district not to be influenced by poisonous and self-interested statements from detractors, and to work as always with unity and confidence to defend their beliefs.

* 20 Oct

94LA0024A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
21 Oct 93 pp 5, 6

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday in open session and the deputies from Qom, Sabzevar, Tehran, Khoei, and Sarband-e Arak gave speeches. Then the deputy speaker, Ayatollah Movahedi-Kermani, spoke concerning the luminous birthday of Her Holiness Zeynab (peace be upon her) and Nurses Day. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings.

Deputy Speaker's Remarks

After the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers Ayatollah Movahedi-Kermani, who was speaker for the session, gave a short speech in which he offered congratulations on the blessed birth and anniversary of the model of patience and resistance, Her Holiness Zeynab Kobra (peace be upon her) and Nurses Day. [passage omitted commemorating Her Holiness Zeynab Kobra's (Imam Hoseyn's Sister) birth and anniversary; Nurses Day]

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

The Second Five-Year Plan must be focused on the nation's great resources and its committed manpower.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mr. Irani, deputy from Qom. He offered congratulations on the birthday of Her Holiness Zaynab Kobra (peace be upon her) and on Nurses Day. He said: Now that imperialism has set out to kill Islam and the world's deprived people on the pretext of creating a new world order, considers every kind of crime permissible to advance its economic and political domination, and has made the soulless international organizations tools for its bullying in order to destroy the emerging signs of freedom and national, orthodox, ethical and humane beliefs of nations, the people must stand against it with the reliance of God, unity, effort, awareness, and full adherence to the vice-regent of the Muslims, because God's promises are absolute and ultimately America the arsonist and its fuel-bearing allies will burn in its fires.

He added:

1. Just as the late Imam and the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i have said repeatedly, the principles of the revolution must be preserved, the same principles that all the enemy plots have sought to obliterate and isolate. It is incumbent upon the Majles and the nation's representatives to guard and observe more than others, because if the main principles of the Islamic revolution are defeated, everything will collapse and God's wrath will prevail.

2. The dear Majles deputies and officials must not forget for a moment the goals of the martyrs, service to the society's deprived and committed classes and support for the world's movements and Muslims, and become absorbed in their daily lives and welfare and watching the world.

3. Most of the time must be spent on essential work, not on trivial and secondary affairs. Comprehensive, living and enforceable laws must be enacted, and care must be used in their study and debate. Following that, supervision must

be exercised to ensure proper implementation of the legislation. Otherwise, through indifference, bribery and the use of influence, all regulations will be pushed aside and the revolution will rot.

4. Respected deputies, you must preserve the dignity of your office as deputies, which is the trust of Islam and the nation. God forbid that the partnership and credibility of deputyship and the high status of the Majles should be destroyed in order to draw the attention of some ministry, minister, capitalist or other person, for we are responsible before God and his worshippers.

5. Since the time for preparing the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law is approaching, it is necessary to look realistically at the budget and to make a new accounting of revenues and wages. Before we seek to increase revenues, let's reduce administrative organizations and costs. Unnecessary and parallel organizations must be consolidated in some way, and we must not place our electoral districts first or hold a nearsighted view.

6. In the Second Five-Year Plan, above everything else we must revitalize spirituality and promote the genuine culture of Islam, the growth of morality and the spread of social justice, because our revolution was a cultural revolution and it overthrew the philosophies of East and West. The world is hungry for the culture of the Islam of Muhammad. The children of the revolution are targets for the imperialist cultural invasion. As we alleviate rural deprivation, we must give the necessary support to agriculture and to the industries that are competitive and needed by society. We must spread the culture of labor and effort, and attention must be given to the relationship between inflation and the buying power of society's deprived classes so that economic growth and expansion will be based on Islam, not Western models.

7. The Second Five-Year Plan must rely on the nation's great resources and its own committed forces. It must focus on self-reliance and truth. Organizational planning must be coordinated and uniformly directed towards the measures and policies of the exalted leader, may his life be long.

The deputy from Qom added: The policy of economic adjustment must be carried out with careful measures, price setting, control and supervision of social security, necessary improvements, support for domestic production, prevention of the excessive import of unnecessary foreign goods, economizing, abandoning ostentation, eliminating pointless trips and seminars and creating employment and privatization in accordance with Article 44 of the Constitution, not through the formation of satellite companies with government foreign exchange resources by a few engineers from some ministry or organization with huge profits.

In conclusion he said: Much thanks and praise are due to the beloved president of the republic and the toiling government, especially the respected minister of the interior, who recently gave support to the municipality of Qom, so that by becoming a province the city of uprising and independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence will be able to alleviate some of its long-term deprivation. It is hoped that this will be approved as quickly as possible by the respected Council of Ministers.

'Ali Asghar Baghani, Deputy From Sabzevar

I ask the nation's education and training officials to work on purifying the young generation, as they educate them.

Another speaker at the Majles yesterday was Mr. Baghani, deputy from Sabzevar. He offered congratulations on the birthday of Zaynab Kobra (peace be upon her), emblem of modesty, courage, and resistance. He said: I wish success to the youth and the young generation studying throughout the country. I call upon all professors and teachers in the nation who are educating and training, while teaching the young generation, to work on purifying it and familiarizing it with Islamic values, to prevent world imperialism from being able, by promoting fornication and corruption, to deter the young generation from effort and useful activity to advance the country.

In this regard I call upon all officials and executive managers in the institutions of education, elementary and secondary education and higher education to observe Islamic values carefully, and to create incentives and encouragement for students and university students, in keeping with Islamic values and mores.

He added: On behalf of the deputies from Khorasan, I praise and thank the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, for his four-day trip to the vast and important border province of Khorasan, the cradle of goodness and blessings and the cause of as much harmony as possible among the public and revolutionary forces, for his special attention to the sacred city of Mashhad as a national city, and for his decision to increase the budget share for the province of Khorasan in the Second Five-Year Plan in proportion to its vastness and importance. I thank him for ordering the implementation of the Sabzevar Airport Project in the Second Five-Year Plan, which has been requested for several years by the respected residents.

Mahmud Saber Hamishegi, Deputy From Tehran

Our national security will be obtained only by creating creating public satisfaction and tranquility.

The next speaker was Mahmud Saber, deputy from Tehran. In his speech he offered congratulations on Parent-Teacher Week and said: Youth are the product of the home and the school. They stand like oak trees against the swords of the oppressors and proudly oppose their oppressive rule. In doing this they are awash in their own blood in order that the tree of Islam may bear fruit and that the immortal epic of 14 Aban [4 November] should be proved. These immortal stalwarts of history who have stood and been martyred and have disgraced the idolaters, were nurtured by these two main pillars of society, the home and the school.

He then added: The current situation in our society and the system prevailing in international relations have created conditions where if we are weak and inattentive in making use of our opportunities and in making our essential, fundamental and vital plans, we will have no opportunity to compensate. Naturally, those throughout the world who look to us and who resist world imperialism and the governments who have sold out, taking inspiration from our revolution, will be disappointed.

This therefore demands that we act with alertness in all areas and that we work to do basic planning to reduce poverty, create social justice and a peaceful and secure environment in order to strengthen and stabilize the sacred government of the Islamic Republic. Such measures will protect us against international changes and the actions of world imperialism, which is seeking to transform our Islamic government.

He added: The first step in this direction was completing the nation's First Five-Year Plan. Fortunately this was accomplished because the responsibility for the executive power was accepted by that zealous soldier of Islam and powerful arm of the revolution, Mr. Hashemi. With an iron and unshakable will and with reliance on almighty God and obedience to the leader, in the last four years he has been able to guide and manage the government and to bring the Islamic Republic to its goals of national development and logical and principled political behavior, in keeping with divine and Islamic values.

In the First Five-Year Plan, all the government's effort was aimed at investment and production, economic stabilization, preventing stagnation of industry, creating employment, making the domestic economy vigorous, and activating great industrial and production projects in the country and in the deprived and talented provinces in order to create conditions for development and a presence in international affairs. If we look at this plan fairly, we will understand that he (the president of the republic) was successful implementing the First Five-Year Plan despite the problems and difficulties he had before him.

Saber said that the exalted leader's guidance in the Second Five-Year Plan is fateful. He said: Despite the plo*s of our sworn enemies, the black-hearted hypocrites and world imperialism and their false propaganda, our good and loyal nation has once again set foot on the battlefield of jihad and has made Mr. Hashemi its trustee. The people must consider themselves partners in all the government's programs, and this requires the realization of a sound, public and orderly administrative system.

Unfortunately, I must say that our administrative system has many problems. Some of the problems are caused by people who are irresponsible and in no pain. The toiling government must exercise the necessary care and precision in assessing, controlling, supervising and changing the nation's administrative system.

He emphasized: Our dear people have cooperated well with the government in implementing the First Five-Year Plan, and they have dealt with the problems. However, the thing that bothers them and has bothered them more than anything else is the false bureaucracy, excessive formality, and naivete in the government offices in carrying out their assigned responsibilities and the bad treatment of clients.

People wandering without end through offices is something that unfortunately still exists. God willing, this dangerous sickness will be cured by Mr. Hashemi's toiling government.

The truth is that the nation's internal stability is closely tied to solving the legal problems of the people. Apart from the guarding of the nation's borders and preventing enemy aggression, our national security will be secured only by creating creating public satisfaction and tranquility.

The deputy from Tehran continued: We expect the energetic, active, and concerned cabinet to show more interest and serious perseverance in this regard, and that by employing learned, committed, aware, determined colleagues who are committed to the absolute vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, it will create the necessary conditions for establishing a sound administrative environment without regard for government employment or excessive concern for welfare.

In conclusion, Saber discussed the fact that the behavior of the new Cabinet so far, as demonstrated by some ministers, includes the establishment of such procedures, and he offered congratulations to the new minister of economic and financial affairs.

Kamel 'Abedinzadeh, Deputy From Khoei

Increased prices, especially in the pharmaceutical and treatment sector, will result in the plundering of the poor people.

'Abedinzadeh, deputy from Khoei, was another pre-agenda speaker. During his speech he said: If extending an invitation to America is not treason, it is certainly support. Of course it appears that this is a calculated move, and thinking like American leaders is thinking Texas-style, and resembles the Amazon jungle. Can one have a relationship with an oppressor before he has stopped his crimes and repented? What kind of West-struck talk is this? This is the same talk as liberalism, the Taqizadehs, and the Freemasons.

He emphasized: In its relations with revolutionary Iran, America is demanding our destruction and transformation. Let us not forget the loud cries of the great Imam and His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i.

He added: The American government is a cancer that is scripting its own death. The American government is savage. What does it have to do with Somalia, Palestine, and the Islamic nations?

We must listen closely and be serious about our Islamic, divine, and revolutionary beliefs, and our deeds must match our values. If grades could be given for savagery, the leaders of the American government and the West and gods of money would be graded as outstanding students. If we search for the most depraved and abject person among the Islamic societies, Yasir 'Arafat, this senseless resolvent of the policies of Zionism and America and most of the leaders of the Western governments will show their despicable faces in the mirror. For what and against what is all this rottenness and eating of everything? These people truly do not believe in eternity.

Elsewhere in his talk, the deputy from Khoei discussed the nation's economic problems. He said: Today the Islamic Iranian society has become a place to display and sell foreign goods. Without calculation or consideration and with completely open doors, foreign goods are brought into the nation's markets at very high prices. If the foreign exchange that is lost in this way were calculated, some problems would be solved. A culture that brings imports along with it is a very serious matter. The libertine culture

of consumption destroys the concept of contentment. It creates a consuming society full of expectations and gradual addiction to the West. Love of foreigners and enmity is its gift to every family and individual, and this gradual un-Islamic tendency is quite dangerous.

The speaker noted: The heavy damage to domestic factories on this account is another matter. Here I must say that no control exists over markets and production. Everyone sells whatever he wants to sell. With this going on, domestic talents will not develop. All the capital will be merely wasted on imports where revenues are high and the effort is little.

'Abedinzadeh also explained: The deprived [as published] government must realize that bureaucracy and staff inflation are causing problems in all the offices and affiliated organizations. This is a clear principle. Any company whose current expenses are more than 20 to 30 percent of its total capital will go bankrupt, and today current expenses in the government's budget are more than 68 percent. What is needed is a courageous and skilled measure. If we assign this to the Administrative Affairs Organization, the bureaucracy and current expenses will continue to increase.

Today the situation in the companies is not clear at all. Their books and ledgers are not known. Of course, staff inflation is also very high in the Majles. The respected Majles does not exercise supervision the way it should. It appears that the respected Majles needs a consultative system in which the appropriate experts are chosen and selected for the entire Majles and each and every deputy. Otherwise there will be a wide gap between us and the depths of the executive processes, and consequently the bills and laws will not have their full richness.

He said: The respected minister of health care and treatment must realize that price increases must not occur in jumps. The reaction to this takes the worst form and the poor people are being slaughtered.

In conclusion the deputy from Khoei discussed the problem of subsidies. He said: The high percentage of subsidies takes place in the cities, and this is causing people to migrate to the cities. The respected government must give sufficient attention to this in the Second Five-Year Plan and in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law so that justice will be observed and production will increase.

Mahmud Astaneh, Deputy From Shazand and Sarband-e Arak

I ask the Majles and the government to help devise a plan to curb the region's rural emigration.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mahmud Astaneh, deputy from Sarband and Shazand-e Arak. He offered congratulations of the emblem of patience and steadfastness, Zeynab Kobra (peace be upon her), and he honored the nursing profession. He condemned America's crimes in Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, and Palestine. He said: Of the many rural people in my electoral district I have been able to visit, most of the rural people in the deprived district of Sarband have abandoned their land, their homes, and their property and gone to the cities. I have once again discussed the causes of this emigration, and I ask the Majles and the government to help devise an enforceable plan to curb and prevent the region's rural emigration.

He said that the failure to provide a livelihood for the rural people and the lack of sufficient income for the rural people is the most important factor in their emigration to the cities. He said: The absence of welfare resources, the lack of suitable roads, the lack of schools and educational resources in all areas and levels, the lack of health care and treatment resources, the lack of electrical power and potable water and the availability of only one occupation, and that being seasonal, are other factors in the rural migration to the cities.

Astaneh noted: Years have passed since the formation of the rural councils. The Council Law was enacted and yet in many rural areas the councils have been dissolved or are not that interested in continuing.

In this regard he asked the minister of the interior and the insiders on this matter to act as soon as possible to deal with rural issues and solve their problems.

The deputy from Shazand and Sarband-e Arak discussed the agricultural situation in the rural areas. He said: With the current status and composition of the land, it is effectively uneconomical to farm in the rural areas and until this problem is solved, a rural person can never take care of himself and will go to the cities.

He cited the high cost of bread in the rural areas as another factor in the emigration, and he called upon the Majles and the government to take a rapid and decisive decision in this regard in next year's budget and in the Second Five-Year Economic, Political and Cultural Development Plan.

In conclusion Mr. Astaneh cited the scattered arrangements of the villages as a factor in the failure to provide services. He said: The scattered villages must be brought together and then services must be provided.

Legislation

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the second consultation of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Deal With Administrative Violations, of which seven articles were approved. [passage omitted on ratified laws]

Majles Notes

Voice and Vision Organization's Answer to Engineer Yahyavi's Speech

After the end of yesterday's open session, the executive in charge of the Majles radio read the answer from the Voice and Vision organization to the pre-agenda speech dated 7/27/1372 [19 October 1993] by Engineer Yahyavi, deputy from Tehran.

How astonishing is the unprecedented broadcast by the officials of the Voice and Vision organization against the Majles deputies, for this, meaning the use of the Majles radio to broadcast answers from various organizations to the Majles deputies, took place for the first time in 15 years. This is the answer to the remarks by Engineer Yahyavi, deputy from Tehran. He protested the broadcast

of the statement from the Ministry of Petroleum against the Petroleum Commission, yet in obtaining the vote of confidence from the Majles, the minister of petroleum had sufficient opportunity to answer Engineer Yahyavi's remarks at that time, and now, with Engineer Yahyavi's protest in a pre-agenda speech, the detailed statement by the Voice and Vision organization was broadcast over the Majles radio. It is not clear what will happen if such a thing continues.

The answer from the Voice and Vision organization is as follows: At the 27 Mehr 1372 [19 October 1993] Majles session, Engineer Yahyavi, using as an excuse the broadcast of the answer from the Ministry of Petroleum to his previous remarks, made unacceptable and accusatory statements about the workers at the Islamic Republic of Iran Voice and Vision organization. To enlighten the public, we give our answer to him below:

1. Engineer Yahyavi says: "What must be studied is the motivation for distributing this statement by the Voice of the Islamic Republic during the Majles recess, over the frequency that the Voice of the Majles uses."

The answer from the officials of the Voice and Vision organization is this: The broadcast of the answer from executive officials and those who were attacked by some deputies is authorized in a measure enacted by the Time Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision organization, and there is long precedent for this. Therefore the officials of the Voice and Vision organization, in accordance with their regulations and at the request of the Ministry of Petroleum, broadcast the Ministry of Petroleum's answer to the remarks by Engineer Yahyavi."

2. Engineer Yahyavi says: The Ministry of Petroleum made high-level contacts with the Voice and Vision organization and asked that the statement not be broadcast, but unfortunately they stubbornly refused to agree.

The answer from the Voice and Vision organization is that these statements are simply false. Before the statement was broadcast no one from the Ministry of Petroleum contacted high-level officials from the Voice and Vision organization to stop the broadcast. Mr. Yahyavi should have given the names of the two parties and their officials so that it could be investigated. The question remaining for the officials of the Voice and Vision organization is why Engineer Yahyavi made such a false statement in the sacred Majles, and more than that, why he accused the officials of this media of being stubborn before questioning the other party in the issue, meaning the Voice and Vision organization.

3. Then Engineer Yahyavi continued by directing accusatory questions to the officials of the Voice and Vision organization: Are there people in the Voice and Vision organization who think that by creating this kind of atmosphere they will be able to keep the representatives of the people from telling the truth and silence them?

Answer from the Voice and Vision organization: If someone studies fairly the programming of the Voice and Vision organization for even one day, he will realize well that the Voice and Vision organization always tries to discuss and present the truth and to make recommendations on solutions in the nation's interest, and these kinds of accusations against the workers of this media are not fair and acceptable to anyone.

We have never expected and do not expect support from Mr. Yahyavi, but since he has sworn on the Koran before almighty God as a representative of the people that upon his honor as a human being he will guard Islam and the gains of the Islamic revolution of the nation of Iran and the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that he will faithfully fulfill his duties as a trustee of the people: "We expect these kinds of people not to make these unilateral, unresearched judgements and that they not make inflammatory accusations to stop the workers in a media organization from broadcasting the truth."

Unfortunately, these workers have been punished repeatedly and are being punished, unfortunately not only verbally but also with action, as in the use of legal prerogatives. A prominent example of the price of telling the truth is the penalty of the so-called 10-billion-rial budget deficit approved for this organization, proposed by several deputies late in the term of the Third Majles and approved by the Majles.

Continuing in his way of thinking, Mr. Yahyavi said: Perhaps there are people in the Voice and Vision organization who think that by creating this kind of public atmosphere they will suppress the results of the investigation and research done concerning this organization. This research and investigation takes up hundreds of pages, and its disclosure will be bitter for many people.

Answer from the Voice and Vision organization:

We and other free thinkers could not find any relationship between carrying out the duties of the Voice and Vision organization with respect to the commands of the late Imam, the implementation of regulations, meaning reading the statement from the Ministry of Petroleum, and doing research and investigation. It is necessary to mention that research and investigation is one of the clear rights of the Majles and it has so far utilized this right concerning several ministries, and without propaganda, public agitation or political uproar, the results of its studies were read in open sessions of the Majles.

However, the question arises among many free thinkers, why do the research and investigation group on the Voice and Vision organization and a few like-minded deputies act contrary to the procedures of the other research and investigation groups? It seems that even before the results of the research and investigation of the Voice and Vision organization become clear for the group, since the beginning they have tried to create an undesirable atmosphere by making inappropriate statements in the press and in repeated interviews. Although it has been more than a year since they began investigating the Voice and Vision organization, this has never been placed on the Majles agenda and no deputy has told the truth to the people.

It appears, contrary to Mr. Yahyavi's claim that the Voice and Vision organization wants to prevent the reading of the results of the study and investigation by inciting public opinion, that this research and investigation group and a limited number of like-minded Majles deputies are the ones who want to incite public opinion, in order to be able to use the results of the research and investigation as a

weapon against the employees of the Voice and Vision organization. They imagine that they will make these employees surrender and stop telling and seeking the truth. They forget, however, that the people running this important propaganda medium are familiar with tricks like this, and they will never sacrifice the independence of the Voice and Vision organization to threats like this.

Likewise, the Majles 10-billion-rial penalty was not able to affect the truth-seeking will of those managing this mass medium, people who seek no reward other than to please God.

The statement from the Voice and Vision organization continues:

At the very first meeting with the research and investigation group, the chief of the Voice and Vision organization said concerning the Voice and Vision organization: I thank you for doing this. He continued: Although research and study are responsibilities of the legislative power, the essence of this work is judicial, and in an Islamic atmosphere the judge must be just and impartial. He must look deeply into what is heard and said and must base his views on established evidence.

After declaring his willingness to provide all information that is requested in writing, he announced: It is clear that the right will be preserved for the officials of this organization to defend the organization using the necessary means if something untrue is said. Unfortunately, so far the working procedure of this group has been different from that of other research and study groups, and they have engaged only in public agitation, or in other words creating a climate of public opinion. We expect this group not to engage in public agitation any longer and to inform the public in the near future of their documented results.

Of course, this must not be done using the methods of Mr. Yahyavi and others who have spoken so far on this matter and who have read their long essays from the podium of the sacred Majles. It is clear that if a report contains false or undocumented material, in addition to informing the public about the false material from the same podium, this organization will also avail itself of its right to defend itself before the competent authorities in accordance with the provisions of the law.

4. In the message from Engineer Yahyavi, to complete his accusations against the executive director of the Voice and Vision organization he recommended that this organization's impartiality be preserved and that it not make irresponsible decisions. In answer to this recommendation from Mr. Yahyavi, the executive director said: Of course, Engineer Yahyavi is not to blame, because he was not in the country for 10 years and does not know what unacceptable accusations this executive director has heard in silence from expectant pressure groups in order to maintain the Voice and Vision organization's impartiality and independence. A number of people who want the media only for themselves consider the media to be impartial if it broadcasts whatever they say without any conditions, but do not want it to do this for the answers to them.

A perfect example of this is Mr. Yahyavi, who thinks that if the Voice and Vision organization, in accordance with its responsibility, broadcasts the saying or writing of an official in another government power concerning the remarks of some Majles deputies, it is no longer impartial and is inciting the public in order to suppress the truth, ignoring the fact that this media and even the radio frequency over which the Majles proceedings are broadcast belong to the entire government, not one governmental power or one individual. It is hoped that Mr Yahyavi will understand this.

We ask almighty and exalted God to make us successful in being fair with what we say and write and to remain always free of selfishness and self-interest.

Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani's Guidelines Memo

After the pre-agenda speakers at Tuesday's session, Mr. Qomi, deputy from Varamin, also spoke condemning relations with America and other things. Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani, deputy from Tehran, said in a guidelines memo: Yesterday the deputies present in the Majles heard Mr. Qomi's speech, and they remember that he said incorrect things and objected to a letter that I submitted to the exalted leader. Under Article 77 of the Internal Guidelines, I ask that I be given 10 minutes to respond.

* 24 Oct

94LA0022A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Oct 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held a session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and the deputies of Torbat Heydariyyeh, Sanandaj, and Behbahan made speeches. Then the Majles went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Mr. Nateq-Nuri made a speech and said: Among the proud accomplishments of the Majles has been and is that its ways and behavior in the discussions in support or opposition and in the pre-agenda speeches have thus far, by the grace of God, been regarded kindly by the grand leader. I have visited him frequently, and he has expressed his contentment, and also because the people generally have dealt with me as their servant, he expressed his gratitude. The same is also true with you deputies in public assemblies. The reason is that, to be fair, duties have been performed devoid of tensions and conflicts and with a sense of responsibility. In the discussion on the Cabinet as well, regarding both opponents and supporters, generally speaking, as the president interpreted it, not even one person spoke maliciously. All the discussions progressed in this manner, which maintained the dignity of the Majles. My request is that from here on as well, for the remainder of the Fourth Majles, we allow this proud accomplishment to be preserved in the Majles. We should not settle our accounts from the podium of the Majles and not say allusive things that may require a warning in accordance with the bylaws, or for one person to gain the right to speak and for another to respond, so that when people turn on the radio they become ill from what they hear. First of all, our late Imam and the grand leader said: The more theological seminary-style discussions there are, the stronger the Majles will be. If the discussions create tension or are intended to harm, this is no longer seminary-style discussion and would not please God. If a person wants to make an argument, the

Majles is not the place for it. You can do it outside. Let us protect the podium of the Majles and not allow it to end in conflict. This is my request. Also, I ask Mr. Raja'i Khorasani to give up his right. Mr. Kuhkan had reserved time in connection with the Voice and Vision, which was broadcast last Wednesday, which he wanted to take. I also ask him not to talk, and I hope he will honor my request.

In regards to the Voice and Vision, Mr. Nateq Nuri said: I visited the grand leader and told him and, God willing, we hope that he will give instructions he finds expedient. We obey him and we shall do as he determines. We have no problems, because we have him. In another part of his speech, the speaker of the Majles referred to the presence of deputies in the open sessions of the Majles and said: When our Majles is in session these days, usually there are more than 200 people. Hence, please do not take away this accomplishment from the Majles. Thank God, the deputies are actively present in the Majles. In this course of the discussions, my request is that we not pursue other affairs. Of course, by other affairs is not meant personal matters. Such affairs are mostly the affairs of the people. But I say that during the open sessions, we should not even attend to the affairs of the people. I also ask the people not to expect it of you. We have an open session, do not make an appointment with a minister. This is not legitimate. I also ask the honorable ministers not to make appointments with the honorable deputies during the hours when we have open sessions. Our meeting should not be disrupted for voting, such as what unfortunately happened last Wednesday, when I was listening to the Majles discussions on the radio. To be fair, the delays in the voting will have an unpleasant effect outside. This was a bad thing, which occurred in the previous session. Also, when there is a discussion in the Majles, the deputies should not talk to one another so that, as your servant, I have to call the names of the gentlemen from this podium. It is very difficult for me to have to mention the names of the gentlemen.

Mohammad Naser Tavassolizadeh, Deputy From Torbat Hedariyyeh

The first pre-agenda speaker was Tavassolizadeh, from Torbat Heydariyyeh, who in his speech, which honored the presence of the president in the province of Khorasan, said: The recent visit resulted in the emergence of talents and solutions just for planning. Torbat Heydariyyeh, with a population of 420,000 people and 15 villages, of which four districts are deprived, is at the entrance and the center of population in South Khorasan. [passage omitted praising Khomeyni and the revolution]

Tavassolizadeh continued: If the hard-working people of Torbat Hedariyyeh are among the winners, in production, work and efforts, too, they are first. In fact, in agriculture they are the first city in the province and fourth in the country. The area they have under cultivation is more than 11 provinces in the country, and with 185,000 hectares of land under cultivation and an annual production of 1.2 million and also production of 20 percent of the silk in the country and with 2.2 million heads of livestock and production of 40 tons of milk means high potential and capability.

According to him, Torbat Heydariyyeh is next to dams and has 2,000 deep and other wells. In fact, the Water Organization of Khorasan announced the water obtained from this city to be 10 billion cubic meters, which is 23 percent of the water obtained in the province.

He said: If at times the allocation of budgets and resources was the result of pressures and caused the strong protest of experts because resources must be promoted in regions without much potential and was to the detriment of the Treasury, now that social justice policies are made on the basis of foreign currency, the people ask why no deserving steps are taken in the city of Torbat Heydariyyeh, with so much in terms of resources and potential and the grounds for growth and development in the creation of silos, dams, conversion industries, and industrial factories, etc., resulting in the reduction of the absorption of workers. The deputy from Torbat Heydariyyeh made a reminder to the minister of interior to try to find provincial centers in the provinces that are population centers and have the necessary potential for growth and development and more population.

He also made reminders to the president and the Ministries of Roads and Transport, Commerce, Culture and Higher Education, and Energy concerning the implementation of the national projects, which are proposed in the recent visit.

Seyyed Ma'ruf Samadi, Deputy From Sanandaj

The next speaker was Ma'ruf Samadi, the deputy from Sanandaj, who referred to imperialist aggression and said: Imperialism first entered the political and economic front and military aggression by creating bases, and so gauging military agreements in the Middle East to control oil and dominate Islamic movements and economic and trade embargoes, and on the other front through official communications and propaganda, cultural invasion through satellite distribution of video tapes to make the nation self-alienated for the purpose of declining values, had a role in their loss of identity, and many of the capabilities as well as the unity of revolutionary forces were damaged as a result of this issue.

Referring to the Islamic changes and uprisings in other parts of the world, the deputy from Sanandaj pointed out: The latest aggression by the oppressors on the camp of revolution is the disgraceful agreement between the PLO and the U.S. usurping Zionist regime, the formula of which, considering the recent statements of Kissinger at the White House, was used to hunt the intifadah and control Islamic movements. Once again, from this sacred place, I remind the deputies of the sensitivity of this point and of finding more practical ways in this connection and ask for intellectual solidarity and unity between all the revolutionary forces in all areas of the world so that the sacred goals of the revolution will be strengthened with the directives of the grand leader.

In conclusion, he pointed out: In the speeches of the deputies, issues have been raised in which many of the problems are set forth. Hence, the necessity of speaking of such issues causes the executive officials to become more familiar with the people's daily problems today and ultimately to solve the problems of society. This proud action is one of the fruits of the Islamic revolution, which has not

been common in any parliament in the world, and most sincerely the problems of the people are examined.

He added: Unfortunately, alongside this constructive action we witness that the actions of the Majles and the deputies with regard to such problems as high prices, of which the people, especially the vulnerable strata, suffer like a horrible tragedy, are not pursued decisively so as to result in a logical solution to exit the present crisis.

My recommendation is that the issues of high prices and the economic situation be pursued in such a manner by the Majles that it is placed on the agenda of the economic officials of the country as serious and essential to find solutions and not be satisfied with passing references to such issues in the pre-agenda speeches. Rather, they should ask the officials for more accountability for the present economic situation of the country. The necessity for such supervision by the Majles stems from the fact that, with the start of the phases of the ratification of prices, it was promised long ago by the economic officials of the country that under no circumstances would the price of goods and services increase. Unfortunately, despite these promises, not only has the stabilization of goods and services not yet been achieved, but also every day we witness price increases.

He asked the Majles deputies to make an arrangement to prevent the increase in prices through controls and supervision.

Samadi also emphasized: Contrary to other countries, unfortunately, the modification policy in the open market system of our country is destructive and uncontrolled, devoid of any guidance and controls by the government, and has caused the internal production industries to be seriously harmed, of which the consequences have also resulted in the severe economic poverty of a large majority of the people in society. Considering the trend of increased prices, we ask these officials, in order to support this stratum, to take steps to reduce the pressures on the vulnerable strata of society by establishing relative justice and creating movement in the social condition, unity, and the continuation of the modification programs.

He expressed hope that the appointment of Mr. Rahimi as the new governor-general of Kurdistan will result in the blossoming of talents in that province.

Stating that annually a large volume of water from the country comes from the borders of the province, he emphasized the implementation of those projects the studies of which have been completed.

Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, Deputy From Behbahan

As the last pre-agenda speaker, Zare'i-Qanavati said: The province of Khuzestan, which has suffered the effects of eight years of imposed war, has not been given the attention it deserves as a martyr-nurturing province. A province with so many resources, with most of the water in the country flowing in Khuzestan, the large oil and natural gas reservoirs, and important ports from which most of the imports and exports of the country take place, with all of those resources, has not been paid attention to.

He added: The roads of the province of Khuzestan are unsubstantial compared with roads in all other provinces. Not even one expressway exists in this province. In Khuzestan, unemployment is outrageous. Our young people need jobs. Urban development is very weak and backward. The appearance of the cities indicates lack of development. All the cities in the province, even the capital of the province, have not made the progress they should. In the cities of the province, the issues of water and sewage require serious attention.

The villages of the province are backward in terms of facilities and resources. In terms of health and treatment, the situation of the cities of Khuzestan, especially in small cities, is not appropriate. Hospitals are not sufficient for the needs of the people.

Hence, it is necessary at the start of the devising of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget that more attention be paid to the proposed figures by the executive organizations of the country.

He explained: The Planning Council of the province of Khuzestan reached the conclusion that the developmental funds of the province must increase by at least five times that of the previous year in order to be able to cover some of the deprivation and backwardness throughout the cities and villages.

Hence, it is necessary that the Plan and Budget Organization and the Majles pay attention to Khuzestan in a way that is deserving of the province. In the Second Five-Year Plan, too, we need special attention. I think that the officials of the country must invite the officials of the executive organizations of the province, ask them their needs, and put them all in the plan.

Qanavati then invited the grand leader to visit the province of Khuzestan.

Continuing, he pointed out the problems of the city of Aghajari and asked the officials of the Ministry of Health to send a group to the region to investigate the existing clinics and hospitals.

In conclusion, the deputy for Behbahan reminded the concerned executive officials about the health problems of the region. [passage omitted on ratifications]

* 26 Oct

94LA0027A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday, and the deputies of Ilam, Zanjan, Hamadan, and Kashmar made speeches. The Majles then went into session. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Seyyed Heshmat Musavi, Deputy From Ilam

Seyyed Heshmat Musavi, the deputy from Ilam, was the first pre-agenda speaker. He offered his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra and the revered son of the late Imam and, referring to the president's visit to the Central Asian countries, said: We all know that this gift for the people of those areas is due to the prophetic message of the Imam to the rulers of the infidels of the Kremlin, and the blessed steps of the ambassadors of the Imam to the expansive land of infidels made the

decaying threads of communism more decayed and made the straw regime fall apart at the hands of those who defended communism.

He then referred to the problems of his constituency and pointed out: The province of Ilam is one of the deprived regions of the country that has faithful people who are loyal to Islam, the grand leader, and the sacred Islamic regime. In this forgotten province, during the time of the tyrant, no attention was paid culturally and economically.

But the brave border-dwelling people of this province stood against the enemies like a strong, firm mountain and guarded the fruits of the revolution. Under the harsh and sensitive conditions, they displayed their provincial responsibility and always responded positively to their leaders in the tests before them and did not hesitate in any effort.

Stating that our people today are living under harsh conditions in all areas of their lives, he said: Poverty, destitution, unemployment, and the effects of the war, on the one hand, and inflation and excessive high prices, on the other, have taken from them their ability to tolerate it. I ask the grand leader and the president to make an essential decision about these problems so that these people, who were all combatants and are the true soldiers of the Islamic Republic, will no longer live in hardship and deprivation. Since the eight years of the imposed war caused the government and the people not to be able to establish factories and production units in that province, while in other provinces factories and workers' environments were equipped with government foreign currency, today the province is suitable for the creation of factories and production units. Unfortunately, however, the high rate of foreign currency has taken away the possibility.

He added: The owners of industries and production units are unable to continue their work due to financial poverty and their inability to purchase equipment, and these small units, too, are about to close down or go bankrupt. Considering that the province of Ilam has abundant oil and natural gas resources, in order to eliminate unemployment and solve people's problems, I request the establishment of a refinery in that province.

He mentioned the independence of a natural gas pipeline to the cities of the province as one of the demands of the people in his constituency. Referring to the bad conditions of the roads in the province, he said: Considering the importance and necessity of an airport for the people of Ilam, I ask the minister of roads to expedite the operation of Ilam Airport.

He considered attention to the cultural and educational affairs and the situation of the university among the needs of the region and asked the minister of culture and higher education for help to solve the above-mentioned problems.

The deputy from Ilam then made reminders concerning attention to agricultural and animal husbandry affairs, controlling the border waters to improve agriculture, and attention by the officials to the issue of cultural invasion, considering the television pictures from Iraq in the region.

Musavi pointed out lack of attention and the mistreatment by some of the executive administrators and officials of the province with the native forces and asked the president and speaker of the Majles to visit this province.

Mostafa Naseri, Deputy From Zanjan

Naseri, from Zanjan, as the second pre-agenda speaker, praised and thanked the speaker of the Majles for his visit to that province and, pointing out that we are beginning to devise the Second Five-Year Plan, said: I ask the writers of the Plan to follow the instructions of the late Imam in their final summations and regard the restoring of the rights of the weak and attending to the needy as a principle, because if otherwise, in addition to being ungrateful to the main owners of the revolution, certainly such a plan will not be fruitful. He then continued: The deprived areas of the country, in distributing funds and investments, must be included in a way that would compensate for their being behind, because the Treasury belongs to all the people, and we are the trustees of the people.

The deputy from Zanjan continued: In the first term of choosing his Cabinet, the president pointed out, I want a government of work and I can handle the political issues. Some members of the government and officials talk instead of working and sometimes say things the implementation of which will require laws and ratifications by the government, circular letters, and instructions. I must say to such gentlemen, Sirs, making policy for the ministry and what it covers is your responsibility. Why, instead of planning and working, do you make statements in your public speeches? Why do you sometimes weaken the people who work under you?

Continuing, the deputy from Zanjan pointed out: For some time now, there is a movement against the city halls of the country, which is unfortunate. I cannot endorse all the actions of the Tehran City Hall or other city halls in general. But I ask those who have risen up against beautifying the cities and creating a pleasant environment for the urban people who are deprived of a great deal of recreational resources, and I must say that this correct action has started in Tehran, to once again take a look at those who are unhappy. If it is the oppressed and the lower classes of the society, they are right, and if it is the capitalists who have created this climate of not paying what is rightfully due the government, they should revise their statements and not beat the truthful servants in the city halls so much with their club of criticism.

Addressing the president, the deputy from Zanjan said: How long should we spend millions on sports in the country and not gain anything? With what national and divine motivation is so much invested with no desirable results gained? During the eight years of sacred defense against the enemy, the Iranian nation was always at the peak of victory. Why are these results not reversed on the soccer fields? As long as sports is mixed with politics, in my opinion, we shall have no other results.

In conclusion, Naseri made reminders to the executive officials concerning the existing problems and shortages in his constituency regarding expediting the Qazvin-Zanjan expressway, expediting the work on the dam in the region, and annulling the Iranian Industrial Standards and Research Institute action in the capital of the province.

Ahmad Habibian, Deputy From Hamadan

Ahmad Habibian spoke as the third pre-agenda speaker and said: The issue of fighting against the United States, besides its political and worldly dimension, has ideological and value dimensions, and as a test separates the noble from ignoble, and calls to the compromisers and the short-sighted, whose number, fortunately, in the land of the free is very small "alas what a preposterous depravity" [phrase in quotes is in Arabic].

The deputy of the people of Hamadan continuing, addressing the U.S. President Clinton, said:

Mr. Clinton, we must thank you, since with your bullying and ambitious policies and those of your politicians, you placed the oppressive regime of the United States at the edge of downfall much sooner than expected. The disgraceful defeat of your so-called undefeatable army in Somalia from a bunch of hungry, famine-stricken, oppressed people, the escape and misery of your armed soldiers from the coasts of Haiti before even having a chance to land, your mercenary interference in Palestine and Bosnia, and further foolishness of this kind, have caused the world to consider the United States an old tiger taking its last breaths, which, because of its ferocious nature, does not admit defeat and is ready to attack somewhere at any moment.

He added: Mr. [Butrus]-Ghali, I am most sorry that your excellency in his noble position did not observe justice and fairness. The soldiers of your organization, instead of being true peacemakers and bringing security to the critical region, after condemning the oppressed nations, came to these regions.

Habibian, then asking the government to implement social justice in the society, pointed out: Despite the efforts that are carried out, still social justice has not materialized in the Islamic society, and we consistently witness a deep gap between rich and poor. It is expected that through revolutionary actions, removed from any personal consideration, these gaps be filled to show the world that here is the country of his holiness 'Ali, the manifestation of justice.

He pointed out: The huge income of some of the government companies, without any legal accounting and with such incomes, enjoying the best resources while poverty and unemployment threatens many of the religious families and supporters of the revolution, can never be ignored. We claim that we are the pious heirs of the great world revolution, but, regrettably, here and there we witness managers who do not feel the pain of Islam and the revolution and despite high-level education and their expertise, which sometimes is acquired from the antivalue Western culture and system, are not familiar with the term "deprivation" and, unaware of the bitter story of inflation and unjust discrimination, rest in their carefree towers and are devising and implementing so-called open economic policies that will never be harmonious with our society. Under the present circumstances, the government nevertheless has no supervision over the market, and some of the sellers deal with the customer as they wish without thinking about supporting the local consumer.

In continuation, Habibian then began explicit: Unfortunately, I must say that exports and imports have not yet found its logical mandate. With the sale of oil and one or two nonoil products, we import everything from abroad, even cigarettes. It is astonishing that in a country in which our slogan is "there is nothing to harm people in Islam" [phrase in quotes is in Arabic] we witness all sorts of foreign goods, particularly cigarettes.

The deputy from Hamadan, then criticizing some of the government organizations that engage in the import of similar government goods, said: My request from the government is that after carefully examining the situation of production in the country to bring some order to the situation of imports and exports.

Stating that taxes are one of the major sources of revenues in every country, he said: A country is successful in its economy and in operating itself when its people are familiar with the tax culture. Unfortunately, I must say that in our country, this culture has not yet found its place. Perhaps one factor is that the just collection of taxes does not take place.

He referred to the necessity of the fusion of parallel ministries and organizations and said: My recommendation is that before you bring the young, active, and innovative forces in society into the spider web of the bureaucratic system, or more precisely to sitting behind desks, prepare the grounds for economic growth in the private sector so that the excess manpower from the closure of excessive and parallel organizations is moved to new economic sectors. If government companies are transferred to the private sector and no longer allow the establishment of companies in the ministries and organizations, if by creating small and large production cooperation companies, the people's savings are brought into economic activity, if we make people obliged to conserve, if all of us, especially the officials, engage in a brave fight against luxury and waste, and in short if we all join hands and, devoid of the accumulation of wealth and seeking comfort, engage in building our Islamic homeland with the slogan of "hard work and effort," certainly the fusion of ministries and organizations will not cause any problems.

Requesting that the government pay attention to the ratification of the Majles, the deputy from Hamadan said: Based on Paragraph B of Note 20 of the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] budget law, companies were supposed to be brought to the Majles by the end of Khordad [21 Jun], but unfortunately we see that this has not been done on time and the efforts of the deputies to set in order the financial situation of the companies remain in vain, at least for this year.

Also, following the frequent emphatic statements of the beloved leader of the revolution in connection with avoiding waste and luxury and the strong positive reactions of our God-seeking people to the statements of his honor, the Majles ratified in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] the law on procedures to supervise decrees on unnecessary expenditures and the prevention of luxury. The implemental bylaws of this law were ratified and approved by the Cabinet in early 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993].

Article 8 of the bylaws for the procedure to use government vehicles states: The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the

National Inspection Organization are responsible for presenting a report on how these bylaws are implemented and the violations once every three months to the heads of the three branches and the Administrative Office of the Supreme Council for Studying and Determining the Consumer Model.

And in Article 9 of the bylaws on public receptions we read: The Plan [and Budget] Organization, the National Accounting Office, and the National Inspection Organization are responsible for presenting a report once every three months on how these bylaws are implemented and the violators to the administrative office of the Supreme Council for Studying and Determining the Consumer Model.

As far as we know, these reports, unfortunately, have not been presented, at least to the legislature and the honorable deputies.

Mohammad Reza Khabbaz, Deputy From Kashmar

The last pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday was the deputy from Kashmar, who referred to the visit of the president to the province of Khorasan and the city of Kashmar and said: With the visit of the honorable president to Kashmar, great joy and enthusiasm and a ray of hope for the bright future of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic under the banner of religious guardianship was seen in the eyes of welcomers.

As a representative of his constituency, he thanked the president and his companions for this blessed visit with the people, and addressing the people, he said: Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and honorable companions, you witnessed the fondness for the clerics, the religious guardian, and the national officials firsthand. As was stated, the city of Kashmar has much potential in various economic, social, and intellectual dimensions. Hence, it is the duty of all officials to try their best to employ these talents.

He asked the minister of mines and metals to allocate the appropriate budget for the revitalization of the gold, magnesium, antimony, arsenic, mercury, copper, and zinc mines for the next year.

Khabbaz added: I request of Mr. Torkan, as he said, to give priority to the Bardsekan-Sabzevar Road, because of its strategic importance; allocate funds for an airport to be used by Kashmar, Torbat Heydariyyeh, and the surrounding cities in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget; and consider the Mashhad-Bafeq railroad in the Second Five-Year Plan.

The deputy from Kashmar pointed out: Most unfortunately, in some government organizations, it is observed that the Hezbollah forces, those who went to the front, the mobilization forces, and the grand families of the self-sacrificers are dismissed, giving them baseless labels, and the grounds for pain and the unseemly are prepared for those who have suffered, which is neither in the interest of the government nor the country.

In conclusion, Mr. Khabbaz made reminders concerning the creation of the Basic Sciences University in the city of Kashmar, determining the situation of 50,000 Kashmar carpet weavers, attending to the people who have suffered damages as a result of hail, flooding, and storms, and providing funds for natural gas outreach to the south of Khorasan to the ministers of culture and higher education, construction jihad, and petroleum.

Ratification

The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was continuing the examination of the details of the bill on examining administrative violations, of which two other articles were ratified by the deputies.

* 27 Oct

94LA0026A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held a session yesterday, and the deputies of Mahabad, Kerman, Naqdeh, and Elamabad-e Gharb made speeches. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the Majles, offered his condolences to all the people, especially women, in a brief speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of her holiness Fatemeh Zahra.

Then the Majles went into session. The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the examination of the details of the bill on administrative violations, of which several other articles were ratified. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

'Abdolrahim Nurbakhsh, Deputy From Mahabad

Nurbakhsh, from Mahabad, as the first pre-agenda speaker, referred to God's Day, 13 Aban [4 Nov], and said: The siege of the U.S. spy nest is a clear example of the disgust and hatred of the liberated combative nation, which struck a chest full of pain and suffering throughout history in clenched fists upon the head of the oppressors headed by the United States.

The deputy of Mahabad then emphasized supervision over the executive organizations and, addressing the Majles deputies, said: We all believe in supervising the executive organizations within the framework the Constitution makes explicit, but instead of supervision sometimes we go too far and judge the good and the bad, and in such judgment, the rights of some of those who serve are violated. We have no shortage of laws in this country, but we have a shortage of those who implement the law. The question is, have the violators and those who fight the law been dealt with seriously by the government?

He added: A scientific study of the procedures and actions of the administrative system of the country indicates the fact that the executive organizations do not follow legal procedures, so that sometimes the revolution prosecutor of one region interferes in the dismissal and appointment of the director of education. You can guess the rest from this brief description.

Our revolution consists of essential goals, and this will cause public skepticism in regards to the regime.

He added: The necessity to perpetuate the values of the revolution requires the officials of the country to strengthen in themselves the spirit of accepting criticism and flexibility and listen to the just words of the people, because self-centeredness and following one's own opinion distances one from the truth.

Nurbakhsh then referred to his meeting with the general manager of the Voice and Vision and said: In connection with the negative consequences of the elimination of religious and local programs of the Voice and Vision of the center of Mahabad, I spoke with Mr. Hashemi, who instead of a logical and reasonable response reacted improperly.

He also explained: Today, it is felt that access by the deprived and oppressed classes of the society to the related officials is very hard, because holding frequent meetings during official working hours and other restrictions has relieved the officials of bearing this burden as well.

Mr. Hashemi, among the most attractive messages of your administration was first the achievement of social justice, but in my opinion, social justice not only regards the economic dimension. The comprehensiveness and credibility of the message also includes the cultural and educational dimension and political participation. The Muslim Kurdish people and the Sunnis expected, as a part of this Islamic country in which they strongly believe, to have a share, even if small, in social and executive participation and have the honor of serving alongside other brothers in your honor's Cabinet as deputy ministers of various ministries.

He continued: Please note that in the western region of the country, from Mahabad up to Sanandaj and Marivan, we do not even have one Kurdish-speaking governor.

Continuing, Nurbakhsh referred to the issue of selection and said: The issue of selection is another problem of those regions. In some cases, the excessive hard treatment forces many talented students to leave the country and join the opponents of the regime. Has the time not arrived in the selection of the brothers of various ministries to realize that the young man with a diploma today was no more than a child 17 years ago and must not pay for the mistakes of others?

He asked the minister of economic affairs and finance, as he promised the Majles in his program, to take serious steps in granting loans and banking facilities to housing loan applicants and also farmers and those who need it, especially in the cooperative sector, to stabilize prices, to control inflation, to create equity and justice in the collection of taxes, and to create essential changes in the banking system of the country to achieve social justice.

He emphasized: Many of the families are unable to meet their expenses and can hardly even buy a kilo of meat, while on the other hand the hoarders and well-to-do fill their bags by shaking the blood of the deprived and low-income strata of the society, which is a strong incentive that has spread administrative and moral corruption in offices and the society.

Concluding, he asked help from the president for the Mahabad clothing sellers who lost their capital in a fire, from the minister of interior concerning making Mahabad a province, from the minister of agriculture concerning attending to the condition of farmers, from the minister of education preventing the dismissal of newly hired teachers, and from the Ministry of Power concerning reducing water and sewage tariffs.

Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Mahdavi, Deputy From Kerman

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Baqer Mahdavi, from Kerman, who referred to the life of his holiness 'Ali and said: In the Islamic Republic, as a result of inattention by the officials and their not being questioned, they are left on their own. For example, the honorable ministers choose and present governors-general, governors, and directors. In the meantime, an introduction and farewell meeting is arranged and gifts are also given to the dismissed person from the Treasury.

He added: The new person is left to God, and he chooses his own team and makes changes. Some of these individuals are so involved in their own objectives that the oppressed people, who always serve the regime and are the strong supporters of the revolution, become indifferent toward the government.

He referred to the issue of search and investigation of the offices of the governor-general and governor of Kermanshah and said: How was the property of the Muslim Treasury, which was allocated to the reconstruction of the region and the welfare of the victims of the war, wasted and poured into whose pocket?

Much insecurity exists in the province of Kerman. A few years ago millions of tomans were embezzled and only the position changed. If the finance director of Kerman and dam receive millions of tomans in bribes, if the head of security of Kerman Airport is arrested in connection with prostitution and after much effort changed, or if the companies under the heading "Moia al-Movahhedin," "Amir ol-Mo'menin," etc., with huge investments, are established by the governor-general, these do not occur all at once, but gradually. When the offices of the governor-general and the governor take long breaks at times and when no official asks them why or audits the huge budget of the province, this is what happens.

He continued: Mr. President, you have frequently announced that the government is a servant of the people, and you yourself are devoted to serving the people. But if the deputies who are also servants of the people make a suggestion, pay attention, because the Majles is your supporter. Not to pay attention is neither in the interest of the country nor in your own interest.

Mahdavi then asked all the officials of the regime to hold their meetings during nonofficial hours and said: If the reports of the National Inspection Organization are approved and the investigations are acceptable, why is no attention paid to the important documented reports? And if it is not so, what is the use of this organization? There are pious, concerned, and persistent people in this organization who investigate people's complaints carefully and impartially. Why does the Judicial Branch not order the investigation of reports documented by this organization?

In conclusion, the deputy of Kerman, addressing the minister of interior, said: Dear brother, what are you afraid of? Be strong in your decisions, because the nation supports you.

Rasul Purzaman, Deputy From Naqdeh

Rasul Purzaman was also another pre-agenda speaker. He offered his condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of the revered daughter of the prophet of Islam and said: Following the victorious visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Muslim Republics of Central Asia, which guarantees deep ideological and cultural ties, once again it is an indication of Iran's political power and initiative on the international arena, even though the oppressors, by provoking Armenian extremists and their aggression on the Muslim soil of Azerbaijan next to the Iranian border, try to overshadow this relationship and the welcoming and revitalization of Islam. But this aggression, like the conspiracy of the compromise of 'Arafat with Israel and the siege of the Muslim shrine in Keshmir, is one of the conspiracies of global oppressors and will certainly never be tolerated by the Muslims of the world and those on the borders of Islamic Iran, because the life of an independent nation and to attain economic self-sufficiency and the lack of need of future generations will be achieved by relying on domestic resources, creating basic industries, implementing Islamic laws, and coordinating the officials and the people.

In continuation, the deputy from Naqdeh said: Because industrial growth and the blossoming of society are desirable, as well as the employment of forces and national capital, considering the growing existence of both efficient and rich potential to achieve the lofty goals of Islam and train an expert cadre and leader, the inclination of the society towards industrialization and the establishment of the Industrial University of Western Azarbaijan are among my emphatic suggestions. My second suggestion is to establish the large petrochemical industry in this province, due to the existence of Urmia Lake, which can be considered one of Iran's largest mines and one of the great resources of the world. In the issue of attention to agriculture, although this province, especially the city of Naqdeh, carried out its main duty during the revolution and the imposed war, which is the defense of the borders and preservation of Islamic values and the revolution, steps have not taken by the government or the private sector to make investments due to the particular conditions in the region. It is appropriate for the government, in the process of economic movement towards ideal and national goals, to provide special facilities in the Second Five-Year Plan to absorb the capital of the private sector as well as make its own direct investments in order to make up for this pause, by implementing special policies for the creation of conversion industries, raising the added value, creating more jobs, developing industries, and ultimately improving the economic conditions of the region.

In this connection, serious support by the banking system for the industries and agricultural sector and the cooperation sector to transfer funds and resources by eliminating the obstacles blocking the path to agricultural and animal husbandry development and tree products, especially in West Azarbaijan, can be an effective step in this area toward reducing the rate of unemployment in the society. Considering the area under cultivation with sugar beets and the activities of the farmers in the region, expediting the building of the Naqdeh sugar factory, based on the studies that have been done and the existence of sufficient raw material for the Naqdeh cement factory, these can be two instances in which the banking system is used, and I request of the honorable ministers of economic affairs and finance and industries to issue the necessary instructions.

In continuation, considering the cold climate and poverty of the region, he asked for natural gas outreach to Naqdeh and Oshnuyeh and also approval of the necessary funds for the Maragheh-Miandoab-Naqdeh-Urmia railroad. Because the province of West Azarbaijan is a neighbor to three countries, in regards to the danger of cultural invasion, while thanking the management and employees of the Voice and Vision, he asked for the Voice and Vision to be strengthened in this province by allocating the necessary funds to build and equip production.

Continuing he said: Identification studies and excavation of the existing mines in Naqdeh and Oshnuyeh and encouragement of the people in regards to mining, attention to the health and treatment and pharmaceutical needs of the people, completion of the Oshnuyeh and Mohammadyar hospitals, establishment of the Naqdeh support complex for the disabled, and attention to the legal problems of the self-sacrificing mobilization forces who have for years defended the Islamic beliefs and preserved the values of the revolution are further suggestions.

In continuation, he thanked the president for supporting and allocating funds for the establishment of the Free University; the president of the university and his educational vice president for giving the license for this educational unit to Naqdeh; the minister of post and telegraph [and telephone] for strengthening the communications network of Naqdeh; and to Besharati, head of the Office of Deprived Areas, for visiting Oshnuyeh and Naqdeh. In conclusion, he asked for more precise supervision over organizations by the Majles.

Aman Narimani, Deputy From Eslamabad-e Gharb

The last pre-agenda speaker was Narimani, the deputy from Eslamabad-e Gharb.

In his speech, he offered his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Fatemeh Zahra and said: One of the issues that has always been emphasized by the deputies is the issue of supervision over executive organizations. In this connection, the Fourth Majles entered the arena in the full sense of the word and has worked well.

He added: The issue of search and investigation, which was a strange and unfamiliar issue for the people, has gradually found a place among the people. You deputies could not learn about the depth of the wounds of the oppressed people of Kermanshah, which was expressed so well by you and your select committee. The issue of search and investigation showed that during this period we have not exaggerated speaking to the deputy brothers and sisters about the deprivation of the people, lack of the governance of law, and the fact that you saw in that region an independent and autocratic country governs.

He also added: When the issue of search and investigation was announced here, many of the deputies said out of concern, we saw that actually an autocratic government existed in your region.

I dare say that what has been expressed is only one-thousandth of the heavy ailments of the oppressed people who brought their cries to the ears of politicians. Nevertheless, so far, what we expected has not taken place.

He asked the Judicial Branch, as the defender of the public, to investigate the above-mentioned cases decisively and without wasting time.

He said: Billions of rials of the money of the people who are deprived of water, electricity, health care, roads, education, etc., has been plundered. Who is supposed to be responsible? The people are impatiently waiting, and call us to ask what will happen. And we always give them hope and say nothing is better for the government officials than to be aware of the injustice you have suffered, and certainly your last rights, even if they are given as a dowry for women, will be retrieved.

* 31 Oct

94LA0025A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Nov 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri presiding, and deputies from Dargaz, Qa'emshahr, Bandar Langeh, and Damavand and Firuzkuh made speeches. Then the Majles went into session. We call to the reader's attention the details of the discussions.

Ahmad Pirzadeh, Deputy From Dargaz

One of the officials of Turkmenistan told a reporter that he had seen with his own eyes the reality of love for Islam and the revolution on this side of the border.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Pirzadeh, from Dargaz, who referred to the visit of our president to the Central Asian countries, which resulted in the signing of more than 100 documents, and said: On Friday, 30 Mehr [22 Oct], the president came to Khorasan, the first visit was different from what had taken place before. This time, he came to the Islamic soil of Iran from the neighboring Muslim country of Turkmenistan, accompanied by the president of Turkmenistan. He added: For more than 70 years the communist government of the former Soviet Union and the sinister Pahlavi regime had separated the two Muslim brother nations of Iran and Turkmenistan and prevented them from visiting and cooperating, because indeed they considered the unity of Muslims in the region a threat to the monarchical and Marxist governments in the region.

He continued: Now, by the blessing of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the independence of the Republic of Turkmenistan, the grounds for the cooperation, friendship, and unity of the two nations has been provided and inaugurated by the blessed hand of the Iranian president in the city of Dargaz. Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and Sakhat Muradov, the political deputy vice president of Turkmenistan, signed the note of agreement to open customs and the border, cargo, and passenger passage of Lotfabad. Hours before the arrival of the president of our country, the people of the border city of Dargaz set out on dirt roads to Lotfabad and gathered in the 50-hectare area of the Customs. More than 30,000 men and women impatiently awaited the arrival of the president and his counterpart. Referring to the strong welcome of the people to the presidents of the two countries, the deputy from Dargaz said: The pressure and the size of the crowd was so great that it was impossible to control in order for the border dwellers of Dargaz region to ensure the protection of the two revered persons. The crowding of the people to see their beloved president was so great that the president of Turkmenistan and all the companions were so astonished that one of the officials of Turkmenistan said to a reporter: Indeed, I have seen love for Islam and the revolution with my own eyes on this side of the border.

He also said: The president of our country made a speech in these ceremonies and said: In negotiations with the officials of Turkmenistan it was decided that the arable lands in the border region will be revitalized with the efforts of you farmers. Also, soon the natural gas outreach will start through Turkmen soil. He also gave the good news that according to an agreement between the two countries a border trade market will be established on the Lotfabad route. Stating that the city of Dargaz has a population of more than 80,000 people and an area of 4,800 square km, he said: Considering that six out of every seven villages are deprived, recently efforts have been made through the Office of Deprived Regions [sentence as published in original text]. At present, the city of Dargaz, with a literacy rate of 80 percent, ranks first among the cities of the province of Khorasan, its average number of literate people being above the national average.

In conclusion, he thanked all the border dwelling people for their welcome to the presidents of the two countries.

Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni, Deputy From Bandar Langeh

The next speaker was Hoseyni, from Bandar Langeh, who referred to the successful visit of the president to Central Asia and said: The oppressors create a new leaf in the book of its crimes every day. During the disgraceful departure of the United States from Somalia in recent days and the disgraceful defeat of that country in Lebanon, Panama, and Somalia, the grounds have been prepared to call this decade the decade of U.S. disgrace. The only way to fight global heathenism is to create unity. The Islamic Republic of Iran must create an exemplary and presentable society as the center and pillar of the Islamic countries and a model of Islamic rule. To do this, it is necessary to leave aside differences of opinion and by using expert forces that believe in the revolution to engage in a period of group cooperation.

He added: Employees who through unfounded excuses make the people unhappy and delay the performance of their duties, with the excuse that, for example, this is someone else's problem and that they have worked as much as their salary requires, must be dealt with seriously. Those who realize the situation of the country and even shoulder the burden of other people's slow down in work must be properly praised.

Emphasizing that the Cabinet must pay attention to the problems of the people that are presented by the deputies, he pointed out: The ministers, deputies, and other officials must know that they are responsible before the whole Iranian nation and must allocate the budget through a comprehensive look.

Referring to the end of the First Plan and the start of the Second Five-Year Plan, Hoseyni said: Certainly, most of the goals of this plan concern the decrease in the gap between rich and poor and the deprived and prosperous regions.

He continued: The Plan and Budget officials must make a general revision in writing the budget and planning and clarifying that the basis of the budget must be Article 48 of the Constitution and the deprivation and needs of the region, not the personal opinion of individuals.

He added: A province such as Hormozgan, which is most deprived, has only a 46-percent budget increase compared to the previous year. If we calculate carefully, taking into consideration economic modifications, it is 30 percent less than last year. Or, as a result of flooding more than 7,000 homes in the province of Hormozgan are destroyed and many of the bridges, roads, and public buildings are eliminated, and according to the officials of the disaster headquarters the province of Hormozgan suffers most of the damages, yet it receives the least amount in the allocation of the reconstruction budget. We still have villages that have not received even one rial in aid or loans, and it has been more than eight months since floods destroyed the large bridge of the Kal River on the road from Bandar 'Abbas to Bandar Langeh. And Engineer Torkan, the honorable minister of roads and transport, who served for some time as the governor-general of that province, knows this very well and knows that with the first rain in one of the provinces of Kerman, Fars, or Hormozgan, this road will be absolutely closed and traffic will stop. Why has no decision been made about the reconstruction of this bridge? How can he accept the responsibility for the closure of this strategic road, and what answer will he have for the people?

Continuing he referred to the problem of the water shortage in the province of Hormozgan and in Bandar Langeh. Praising the efforts of the Ministry of Energy and the deputy minister of water and sewage, he did not consider these efforts sufficient and asked the Construction Jihad, the Plan and Budget [Organization], and the Majles to make the necessary efforts to preserve the water reservoirs, which are national resources.

In continuation, the speaker thanked the president and the speaker of the Majles for visiting his constituency and asked for the implementation of water outreach projects in that region.

He then announced that, despite the fact that five months remain until the end of this year and that the directors do not carry out their legal duties: They have allocated no money to this project. I have frequently reminded Mr. Mirzadeh verbally and in writing about the implementation of this law. Even the honorable president wrote a letter to him, but neither the Majles ratification nor the letter of the president nor the pleading of these thirsty people have softened the hearts of these directors.

He added: The requirement for progress in every society is the rule of law and respect for law by the officials. How could we expect to obey the rule of law and not pay attention to it ourselves? I consider this action disrespect for the law and discrediting the Legislative Branch. It is the duty of you honorable deputies of the nation to impose strong and very serious supervision over all executive organizations.

Concluding, the speaker thanked the people of his constituency and the governor-general of Hormozgan for the establishment of the Bandar Langeh-Sharjeh shipping line and reminded the national law enforcement commander concerning the opening of the Bandar Langeh passport office, the officials of the airlines concerning the reopening of the Gavbandi Airport, and the Fishery Company concerning expediting the start of the implemental operations of Kang and Langeh Ports.

Saleh Ruhanizadeh, Deputy of Qa'emshahr

The backs of many of the weak strata of the society are bent under widespread high prices.

As the second pre-agenda speaker, Saleh Ruhani offered his condolences on the martyrdom of her holiness Zahra and referring to 13 Aban [4 November] said: On 13 Aban 1343 [4 November 1964] the Imam was exiled to Turkey, students were martyred in the university, and the spy nest was seized. The Great Satan, the United States, plunders the borders, culture, lives, religion, and people. The U.S. leaders nurture terrorists, and so far they have played the greatest role in global terrorism.

He added: The people and the freedom seekers in the world and the Third World countries, by understanding the Islamic revolution and the directives of the grand leader, have learned that the end of U.S. adventurism is natural.

He added: Those who determine the fate of the United States must know that the world will no longer accept force. In one word, if the policymakers of the world want to govern the people, they must replace force with logic and reason, otherwise, they shall fall.

He referred to the deepening of the relations between the European countries and Iran, which are moving in a desirable direction, and, in regards to the importance of the role of the Majles, said: So far, the procedures have been thus, that the pre-agenda speeches are made by the deputies in the Majles and, unfortunately or fortunately, end in a few lines in the newspapers. Of course, I thank the newspapers myself.

He asked the president to instruct his parliamentary deputy to make sure that all the parliamentary deputy ministers are present during the pre-agenda speeches, so that the complaints of the people are relayed to the proper officials.

He continued: The realities must be transmitted to the ears of the officials from the podium of the house of the nation. With widespread high prices, the backs of many weak strata of the society have been bent. The pressure of taxes on the middle and weak classes of the society, and worse, lack of control of prices, transfers the pressure of taxes on the weak and low-income classes in the society. Prices must be seriously controlled and supervised. Taxes must be transferred from the low-income and weak classes to the well-to-do and high-income classes, because tomorrow will be too late.

The deputy from Qa'emshahr explained: Capitalists continue the war against God and the Prophet through usury. It is for this reason that Western capitalism is anti-God, because it has power. Banks, too, constitute economic power that people can buy by expanding the cooperatives. Now, the banks are at the service of the services sector. Banks absorb a large percentage of the economic essence of the country but do not play their main role in production.

Ruhanizadeh then continued: Last year, farmers were stuck with their fruits and could not sell them. Should the farmer be supported only through planting and harvesting? Should he be abandoned at the level of harvest? I say to the minister of agriculture and the National Economic Council that the orchard keepers should not be allowed to go bankrupt, like last year.

Raising the question of what the use is in having ceremonies for exemplary farmers, he asked the government to provide facilities to strengthen the rice farmers of the north.

He added: The president is expected to instruct the head of the Plan and Budget Organization to pay special attention to the situation of agricultural industries and education in the Second Five-Year Plan in order to compensate for the First Plan.

In continuation, he asked the president for help in examining the situation of the management of national athletics.

Seyyed Ahmad Rasulinezhad, Deputy From Firuzkuh and Damavand

I thank 'Ali Da'i for giving his prize to the Emergency Committee.

The next speaker was Mr. Rasulinezhad, the deputy from Firuzkuh and Damavand, who offered his condolences on the anniversary of the death of the revered daughter of the Prophet, Fatemiyyeh Days, to the Imam of the Age and the grand leader of Muslims, and speaking about sports said:

In the past few years, with the changes in the cadre of the Athletics Organization, the Sports Federation, and the National Olympic Committee, and with the promises that were given, the public expected us to achieve bright victories and success. In this connection, the victories of the athletic teams in the beginning must not be credited to these gentlemen.

In fact, they were the result of the efforts of the previous officials and coaches of the teams. While we witnessed the sacrifice of some of the values for the sake of the development of sports and in the interests of the country, we remained silent and did not say anything. At the same time, we witnessed serious, unpleasant, and frequent defeats in the sports arenas, the last of which was that of the National Soccer Team in the Qatar games.

Perhaps some will say that the sacred podium of the Majles is not the place for raising such issues, but I must say that for the following reasons, they must be raised and pursued.

1) The general atmosphere and the sensitivity that the people of our country showed during the games and the discussions in circles and gatherings.

2) The hurt feelings of the people of our country resulting from the serious and unexpected defeats.

3) The prevention of these defeats and the downfall of national sports more than ever before.

4) The athletic credibility and prestige of our country put in question.

5) A number of the cities of our country lack athletic resources and arenas. For example, in the cities of Firuzkuh and Rudhen, each of which have hundreds of talented and active athletes and dozens of athletic teams, there is not even one small sports arena. In the city of Damavand, the existing resources are hardly sufficient for the young people and athletes. My correspondence with the athletic officials to build a small athletic arena in these two cities has not gotten nowhere, and the gentlemen say that they have no funds. We witnessed the spending of a large portion of the national budget, tens of millions of tomans, and even more in Qatar, with such defeats, yet our team had the weakest defense line after North Korea, ranking fifth out of six teams. Who must answer to this?

He added: Mr. President, the Athletics Organization of the country requires an essential and fundamental housecleaning and change. Officials with up-to-date knowledge of sports and experts with one position and responsibility, that of related sports or federations, must be selected. Those who have several jobs and responsibilities cannot serve the sports interests of the country as they should and as is required.

Planning must be made and supervision imposed over the affairs to progress, or, on the contrary, face regression.

It is astonishing and unfortunate that at th. height of the defeats of the National Soccer Team in Qatar, and while the people of our country are angry because of these defeats, the director of the Athletics Organization of the country, in an interview with the media, despite the presence of competent, expert coaches who are familiar with the current knowledge, and according to him, the coach of the National Soccer Team lacks this knowledge, announces that he, that is, the supervisor and head coach of the National Soccer Team, is the best coach in the country. If he is right, why should we consider increasing the budget of the Athletics Organization of the country?

And why should we invest in the sport of soccer, in which despite such heavy expenditures, we suffer such defeats? Of course, we should not blame all the defeats on the head coach of the National Soccer Team. His situation became clear in Qatar. What remains is determining the situation of the Athletics Organization and the Soccer Federation.

We expect and request of the honorable president in changing the management and administrators of the national sports, which is a preliminary step in essential and rooted planning, devoid of any sort of slogan, suppositions, and daydreaming, to ensure the growth, expansion, and success of sports on the international level. Of course, here I must sincerely thank and praise the efforts of the athletes, especially the God-pleasing action of the bright figure of the National Soccer Team and the best athlete of the Qatar games, that is, Mr. 'Ali Da'i, who donated his $1,000 prize to the Imam's Emergency Committee to help families without guardians and the deprived.

In conclusion, he made reminders to the minister of petroleum concerning expediting the implementation of the natural gas outreach project in the region and to the minister of roads and transport about the resurfacing of the asphalt of Firuzkuh Road. He also asked the minister of energy to expedite electricity outreach to the villages of Bulan and Daryabak.